



THE ACORN

SEASON 2021 ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Football is back!! It was fantastic to see our kids back playing football after such a long time off! The smiling faces back at Scammell Reserve for Grub at the Club was brilliant. The coaches spoke really well and were very positive regarding the players and their results.

Congratulations to everyone for getting through a tough COVID-19 time, the rewards of smiling faces and football being played was priceless.

A big thanks to the U14 Mixed team parents for providing dinner last night and kicking off Grub at the Club again, everyone was licking their lips!

This Sunday we have another Grub at the Club (hosted by U11s) to celebrate Anzac Day and special Oakleigh Dragons Anzac Day medals will be handed out to a player in each age group for their courage / strength shown on Sunday. The Dragons will also be laying a wreath at the Oakleigh Cenotaph at the dawn service, we welcome all players etc in their Club gear.

As mentioned at Grub at the Club we are looking for help behind the bar on our social nights. The role can be a non-committee position and all ordering of supplies is done for you. Please contact myself or Melita at (secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com) if interested.

The Club will be hosting a Responsible Service of Alcohol course shortly and all interested parties need to contact Melita. The Club will pay for their RSA course but they must help out the Club every so often. People can still do the RSA course if not able to help the Club but they will have to pay for their own course.

See you all at training and game day.

Pat Heverin
President

GO DRAGONS

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 (Jnr): Simon Greely
Canteen Manager: Clancy Phillips
Bar Manager: Vacant
Property Officer: Michelle Englund

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BRAESIDE



CAN YOU HELP?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

You may have heard at recent Grub nights that the Club is looking for new committee members to assist with the tasks required to operate the Club and get our kids on the field. This is an ongoing request and you may well be sick of us by the end of the season. In saying that, there is great reward in volunteering. Studies show, volunteering connects you to your community, is good for your mind and body, can advance your career and brings fun and fulfillment to your life.

We are actively seeking someone to fill the Bar Manager position:

POSITION	CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY
BAR MANAGER The Bar Manager is responsible for the sale of snacks and drinks from the bar. You will need to hold a Responsible Service of Alcohol accreditation (which the Club can assist to organise and will reimburse for). You will need to attend social functions at Scammell Reserve (including Grub at the Club), and will be helped out behind the bar by our growing number of members who also hold Responsible Service of Alcohol accreditation. You will not have to order stock as this function is undertaken by the Scammell Reserve Committee. Some liaising with the Scammell Reserve Committee required. This is a great role for someone who is organised, can lead others and enjoys socialising!	VACANT

If you can fill this role
or would like more information about how you can help, please contact
Melita at secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com or Pat on 0402 905 198.

2021 FOOTY – SO GOOD TO BE BACK
AND GIVING OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS
A START AFTER MISSING OUT LAST YEAR!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like in the next Acorn, please email them with a description to Kathy at complianceOYCFC@gmail.com



COACHES' REPORTS

U10 MIXED DAVID CASH

v Beaumaris at Boronia Reserve

Well boys, what a great way to start the season – a Practice match, but I was so pleased with you all playing it like a normal game of football.

As I mentioned during and after the game, all our players will be roughly the same amount of time in each zone to continue to learn and develop all parts of your game.

Overall, I could not be prouder of every single player that took the ground this weekend. The attack on the ball and the tackling was a treat to watch. The way you each looked for a teammate either with hand ball or kicks was fantastic.

I don't know what else to say except keep up the great football, continue to encourage each other with the good football you see.

There were high marks, great fast handballs, tackling galore and great field kicking and the goals by many different players – the Goal assists were equally as impressive as the goals themselves.

Enjoy your week back at school, see you at training Tuesday evening and I am looking forward to our second game already.

U16 GIRLS SIMON GREELY

Round 1 vs East Malvern – 18th April 2021

It was wonderful to have footy on again for everyone at the Oakleigh Dragons.

A big THANK YOU to the committee for all of their hard work in the lead up to this season, especially after all of their efforts to get ready for 2020 as well!

Our team started off their season in a very positive manner with lots of enthusiasm, support and enjoyment of the game. We rotated our players through the different areas and every group did a fantastic job, whether they were forward, midfield or backline.

The highlights were probably the pressuring and tackling, meaning East Malvern didn't get too many easy kicks. We saw some great examples of 'Dragon to Dragon' and had 6 different goal kickers with a couple of very near misses too.

Our new players – Christina, Ashlee, Clementine, Mia and Daisy – all settled in very nicely to the team and all were heavily involved in the game.

Overall, it was a very pleasing start to the season. The team played with a great spirit and we are looking forward to continuing to improve and be the best team we can be.

Final score: Oakleigh 6.6.42 to East Malvern 2.1.13

Goals – Alice, Choetso, Ruby, Gecko, Giselle & Britney.

Best Players – Great team effort for our first game.



U11 MIXED GREEN NICK SOURRIS

Welcome back footy. The Under 11s Mixed Green and I were very excited to be back. Our Round 1 game was at home at Scammell Reserve against the Waverley Hawks.

The boys were shocked that they had to compete on full size ground and the first 3 quarters proved it, as our boys had only scored 2 behinds. They were playing well but couldn't quite gel as a team, having not played footy for almost 18 months.

We asked our boys to show some of the Dragons spirit and they delivered in spades. In the final quarter our champs booted 3 goals to nil, just falling short by 12 points.

A special mention to Mony, Cooper, Tom, Sasha and James who led the way to our comeback.

U11 MIXED YELLOW MARK D'ROZARIO

The Under 11 Yellow team created last week was set a tough task to have a game at Como Park in South Yarra against Prahran. We had Liam and Jim helping from the U10s and Kavya and Ethan playing their first game and Max back at the Club after 2 years and they all showed a lot of promise. The boys were all excited about their first game in two years and showed a lot of fight and ability.

Courage was shown when Ollie G was sandwiched between two players with eyes only for the ball and took a hard hit but wanted to keep playing. Darcy M showed great dash through the middle and created a goal kicked from one end of the ground to the other. Harland was great in defence stopping at least 6 goals with touches on the line. Fionn was terrific all day in defence, both he and Harland took some great defensive marks under pressure. Andrew, Cameron, Troy and Archie showed a lot of fight in the midfield. Andrew's tackle pressure is always terrific and was the same on Sunday. The boys never gave up in what was a tough first up game and although the result did not go the way we wanted the hard work and great team effort was there and will be essential for games during the season.

Most importantly, a big thanks to Jean, Gary, Jude and Lev for their hard work this weekend to make sure we get a team out on the park this week. Their commitment has been terrific 😊.

Go Dragons!

U9 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE

After a long and tricky pre season our kids finally got to play football on Sunday. For some it was their first exposure to the process of how it all works. For others who have spent years on the sidelines watching their siblings play it was finally "Game On".

We played Beaumaris away in perfect conditions.

The game ebbed and flowed from one end to the other with no team gaining absolute control. We switched our backs and forwards for the second half which resulted in a very strong third quarter for the Dragons with a couple of goals without reply from Beaumaris. The inevitable reply came in the final quarter but we held on for a very well deserved 9 point victory.

Daniel and I asked the boys to try their hardest and that they did which is most pleasing - along with exemplary behaviour and discipline from both teams which led to a great game of football.

Thanks to all who helped with the many roles on the day - it was worth it to see those happy kids (learn) and sing the club song - Go Dragons!



U12 GIRLS TONY WARD

U12 Girls Lime: Tony Ward / Darren Taylor

Beaumaris Sharks v Oakleigh Dragons

We played away at Beaumaris in Round 1 with much excitement but no idea how we would go.

Before the game, we emphasised some critical aspects: effort, talking, tackling, and pressure.

There was a slight breeze and a slight downhill slope to one end, and luckily Zoe, captain for the day, won the toss, and we kicked with the breeze.

Q1

In the first quarter, the whole team showed great effort and were first in, and we dominated the midfield with Sienna, Camryn and Millie fighting and running and continually getting the ball into the forward line where Tess and Tash were able to score goals. At quarter time, we were up 19 to 6.

Q2

Uphill and into the wind, we asked the girls to play in front and to run. They all continued to do as asked. They all fought incredibly well with some great tackling and fighting from the backline – Zoe, Tahlia and Maddi. We were able to score another goal for the quarter while Beaumaris scored 2. Millie went down injured during the quarter, so we were back to 9 players and no bench. We were up 26 to 18 at half time.

Q3

In another great effort from the team, we continued to be first in for the football. We fought for every possession and laid a lot of great tackles. The midfield again did excellent work, getting the ball into the forward line and when the ball did go down back – the backs, Elaine, Tahlia and Skye – did great pressure work. We held Beaumaris to 3 behinds while kicking four goals ourselves, highlighted by two great handballs from Tess to set up goals for Tash and Zoe. Up 51 to 21 at ¾ time

Q4

Q4 was a hard slog, the girls fighting for every possession. The ball spent much of the time in our forward half where Tahlia, Maddi and Skye fought hard and whilst we were not able to score, the girls again executed some great tackles and provided lots of pressure. The ongoing pressure meant Beaumaris wasn't able to get any offensive flow for much of the quarter. The siren sounded, and we ran out winners, 51 to 27.

For the first game of the year, the girls executed what we talked about before the game with aplomb and had a great win. The result was due to a great effort by the entire team.

Final Scores:

Oakleigh: 8.3.51

Beaumaris: 4.3.27

Best Players: Team Effort

Goal Kickers: Tash 3, Tess 3, Zoe 2



U13 MIXED DARREN GRENFELL

Opponent: Away game vs Bentleigh JFC

Result: Oakleigh Dragons won comfortably

Match Day Captain: Oliver

The match in a paragraph: It was a very enjoyable return to football for the Under 13s out at Bentleigh. From the start, the boys dominated the match. Vastly improved skills and superior teamwork resulted in the team having a large victory. Most pleasing was the way the boys played – taking greater care with their disposals, most evident with the amount of times players used handballs out of a contest to a teammate running free. It was a perfect start for two debutants to be welcomed into the Dragons family. The only blemish for the day being that their coach forgot to get the boys to sing the song after the game!

Special mentions from the game:

- 13 different goal scorers was a real indication of the team football played by the Dragons.
- The improvement in ball movement was encouraging. Quick handball chains were regular and effective in moving the ball down the ground quickly.
- First time in the ruck for Ben, but will not be his last. A fantastic first half – giving his teammates first use of the ball out of the middle with his high jumping and tap work.
- Watching Oliver, Ethan and Rayaana provide a real physical presence in congestion.
- Great signs from Seb, Tom, Tyson, and Peter with their confidence to run with the ball.
- Jacob for playing his best ever game with the club. He was a frustrating defender in the first half, and a power marking forward in the second half of the match.
- Congratulations to Joseph and Zeke on playing their first games with the Dragons.
- Finally, a big thanks to Angus Chetwin from the Under 12s for filling in and allowing us to play with a full team. Your goal in the first quarter was an added bonus!

Round 1 Goal Scorers: Mitch (3), Oliver (3), Rayaana (3), Oscar (2), Austin (2), Tyson (2), Ethan, Tom, Ben, Dean, Sam, Jacob, Angus

Looking ahead: It was a fun outing against Bentleigh, but a much tougher game beckons against Cheltenham at Scammell this week.

U12 MIXED ANDREW GREEN

Oakleigh Dragons Under 12s played against St Pauls McKinnon at McKinnon Reserve.

The skill level from both sides was reasonably even but Oakleigh was able to provide more goals opportunities and won 33 to 12.

The boys' efforts with tackling was fantastic and this stopped many runs at the play. There was also some great linking plays and looking around for targets.

With the first year out of zones the boys had good freedom to run the field but came off very tired.

This was a fabulous first game and the boys should be very proud of their achievements today.

Looking forward to next week playing home at Scammell.



U14 MIXED TIM MORELAND

It was fantastic to have everyone back after almost 600 days without footy we travelled down the highway for Round 1 against Mordi-Brae.

Our last win was a Premiership so we went up a division and our opposition today was certainly committed across the ground. Whilst being a very good opposition the lads can play a thousand times better than that today.

They boys were really keen to get into it however we're putting it down to just one of those days nothing worked resulting in a big loss. We just couldn't get our hands on the footy.

The magnets on the board were smoking at one stage trying to find something that worked but we just couldn't get a sparking combination going.

We'll stay positive and get back into it this week on the track and work on a few things we need to. We have a really good team so we're confident we'll bounce back.

So we look forward to next week at home with a chance to make amends.

So in finishing up this week a big warm welcome to all of the new lads and families to the club and we hope you enjoy your time at the Dragons.



U14 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Sunday couldn't come around fast enough for everyone. We headed down to St Kilda City where the girls were chomping at the bit before I released them onto the ground and into their positions.

The first quarter was very hectic and non stop, and it showed as the girls came off the ground huffing and puffing. By half time we had only conceded one goal thanks to a huge effort from our backline with their excellent repelling of St Kilda City's forward entries.

In the third, St Kilda added another goal before momentum started shifting our way, we kicked two quick points and were looking like the floodgates were about to open but unfortunately an injury to one of the opposition players ended the game prematurely. So in the end we lost by 11 points, ah what could have been!



U15 MIXED JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: East Brighton Vampires **Home Game**

Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 102 points

Scammell Reserve was in fantastic condition for our first game of the 2021 season. The weather was perfect for footy and the Dragons' Under 15s were ready to go.

Firstly, congratulations to the newly appointed co-captains Tommy H and "Specky" Bernardo. Also, in the leadership group as Vice Captains are Billy R and Oscar M. We are very confident these 4 will lead the group well. There are 2 new players to the Dragons U15 this year - Hady (3 goals) and Ethan W who will both be real assets to the club. We also welcomed back Pan after a couple of years.

We were unsure what to expect in the first grading game, but we were confident in our game plan. The game was played on our terms and we lead by 9 goals at half time, running out winners by 17 goals. It was good overall performance for these young men.

Special mentions from the game:

- The form of all the leadership group was fantastic. They were dominant throughout the day. Tommy H (5 goals) had a "blinder" and Billy showed us what high marking was all about. Oscar was everywhere and Specky's pace and aggression was a highlight (2 goals).
- The boys played as a team and they shared the ball extremely well. We have been working on switching the ball which worked on the wide-open spaces of Scammell. The discipline was also something to be proud of.
- Both Jacksons on their respective wings played good games with both hitting the scoreboard. Jackson L (4 goals). The forward line worked well with 9 different goal kickers. Hady kicked 3 with Pan, Bailey and Billy kicking 2 each. The backline worked hard together had some real highlights during the game.
- The boys are having fun and trying hard, we know that we will be tested in the weeks to come but looking forward to the challenge. The spirit within the group is really developing and they are really starting to care about each other and this team.

See all the boys at training his week. Well done on your first efforts.



GRUB AT THE CLUB SCHEDULE

Subject to change during the season depending on game times, your Team Manager will keep you posted.

Don't forget – Grub's Gone Green! BYO plates and cutlery.

Date	U8 & U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays	Grub at the Club
18-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U14 Mixed
25-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Anzac Day	U11 Mixed
2-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		
9-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
16-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		U16 Girls & U18 Girls
23-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		U15 Boys
30-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		
6-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U17 Boys
13-Jun	NO GAMES				Queen's Birthday	
20-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U12 Mixed & U13 Mixed
27-Jun	NO GAMES				School Holidays	
4-Jul	NO GAMES				School Holidays	
11-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U12 Girls & U14 Girls
18-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
25-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U10 Mixed
1-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
8-Aug	Round 14 / LC	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		U9 Mixed
15-Aug		Round 15 / LC	Round 15	Round 15		
22-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
29-Aug			Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals		
5-Sep				Grand Finals	Father's Day	

