



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2021 ISSUE 6

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The football gods are certainly smiling on us with another perfect weekend for football! Scammell was extremely busy with the first game starting at 8.00am and the last game starting at 3.30pm.

A big thanks to Gab Robinson and the U15 boys who hosted and served up the magnificent food at Grub. The boys were entertaining and had some fun with serving and cleaning up - Perfect attitude boys, well done! Thanks to the parents who cooked for the night, we have had many compliments.

A special mention to Mark D'Rozario, get well soon, we are all thinking of you.

Good luck this week.

Pat Heverin

**BREAKING NEWS** - As you know, new COVID-19 restrictions have been announced effective from 6.00pm Tuesday 25 May. More details will follow shortly via email about how this affects our Club, but for now games are proposed to continue as scheduled. Stay tuned for more information.

# 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: Simon Greely

Canteen Manager: Clancy Phillips

Bar Managers: Chris Ward & Gab Dunn

Property Officer: Michelle Englund

### 2021 MAJOR SPONSORS



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





## CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Liam Nikitas – U11 Mixed  
Nathan Rekas – U12 Mixed  
Zeke Williams – U13 Mixed

Having a milestone game?

Send details and photo to Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)







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](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)



## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE

We welcomed Beaumaris to a frosty Scammell Reserve on Sunday morning for an 8.00am start. This was the same opposition from our first game of the season where we came away with a slim victory. The team put on probably their best performance of the season so far – winning by a couple of goals and never looking like they were in trouble.

This weeks' special mention goes to Gregory who scored a really good goal on the run and snagged another one later. We also had Cuan execute a perfect tap in open play to Ethan who burst forward setting up another opportunity for our forwards.

It was good to see some of our younger boys get their hands on the ball and execute some drop punts perfectly along the chain – the more touches our younger players get will help grow their confidence as they have ability.

In this game we got reward on the scoreboard for our pressure which has not always been the case. Well done Boys! That really was a solid performance.

Next week we hit the road (no complaints after 5 home games) which presents different challenges for all of us which we will embrace together.

Go Dragons!

### U10 MIXED DAVID CASH

v East Sandy Away

WOW what great weather we had for our round 6 game.

It was an early game against a very well drilled team – they put a lot of pressure on our boys and we took a while to get used to it, but to their credit our best quarter was our last one, so that shows they never gave up and kept trying to get to the ball first.

Their resilience was really tested throughout the game, and I know a number of players that were upset that they “didn’t play a very good game” but when it was explained that sometimes a player or a team can only play as well as the opposition let them play.

It is always our aim as a team that puts the pressure on the opposition to stop them playing well, and we can learn from a hard fought loss as well as a win, often we learn more, especially if we can look at it objectively after the dust settles.

We try to hone our skills so we can do them under pressure just as well as when we are out in the open without pressure. Making it fun and enjoyable is the key I hope to bring to training to keep this growth going.



I had a very strong chat with the boys after the game about not turning on each other and criticising each other, and keeping your head up and being proud, and I hope they all take this on board – because after all we all together as U10 Dragon JFC players, and we are playing football to all enjoy football, not to win at all costs, and bag out mates.

I am so looking forward to this weeks' Friday Night Game for us.

See you all on Friday night at 5.30pm or before if you can get there little earlier to help set the Modified rules grounds up.

### U11 MIXED NICK SOURRIS

Our Under 11s Mixed Lime were away at Walter Galt Reserve in Parkdale, playing Mordi-Braeside. During the week at training we practiced our tackling and pressure skills as they were lacking in previous games.

The first quarter siren sounded and the boys were pumped and ready for the game. Led by out two captains, Curtis and Oscar, our boys tackled and harassed with a venom I had not seen previously.

At quarter time the score was 19 points to 2 points, in our favour. The second and third quarters were much the same with the midfield and forwards dominating. Tom Quinn, playing in the forward pocket, had kicked 9 goals in 3 quarters earning him a best on ground performance. He actually was lining up for his 10th goal after the final siren had blown, but unfortunately could not quite make the distance. A magnificent performance nonetheless.

The final scores was 80 to 2 points, another great victory by the mighty Dragons.

Another few names that I need to mention that contributed to this performance, are Ajay, who played a wonderful game as a rover, Will who was a rock in defence and to our two ruckmen, Curtis and Mony who amassed a huge number of hit outs.



At the end of the game the opposition coach said he had an award to give to a Dragons player. He pointed out that the kid receiving their award demonstrated a great deal of care, both towards his own players and the Mordi-Brae kids. He said our #24 was a talented player who showed great mateship on the field to both teams. Congratulations Mony!

It really was an all round team performance which always pleases the coaches.

Congratulations to Liam who played his 50th game for the Dragons today.

A special shout out also to Jaron, Jimmy and Rhys who all played up from Under 10s.

Thank you boys for all your efforts.

### U12 MIXED ANDREW GREEN

Oakleigh Dragons Under 12s had a home game at Scammell Reserve under glorious sunny conditions against Ormond. We had a previous meeting with Ormond in the grading games but this was a different team and they presented us with more pressure and refined skills.





I challenged the boys to switch on from the first quarter and not drift in half asleep. They certainly lifted to this challenge and played 3 quarters of great footy. Unfortunately, Ormond was sniffing a potential win and spent the 4th quarter rapid firing the footy at the goals to score 7 points and we ended the game with a 23 – 23 draw.

The boys in the defence were under constant attack and were not able to easily clear the ball from the back line. They should however, be commended for their continued fight until the final siren.

The boys are improving each week and working well as a team. I look forward to a solid training session next Wednesday after the fantastic pie night we enjoyed last week. Thanks for the club for providing this great service.

### U12 GIRLS TONY WARD

Beaumaris FC U12 Girls Great Whites v Oakleigh Dragons

We played away to Beaumaris FC U12 Girls Great Whites, a team that we had played in the first round and had come away with a pretty good win. I thought it would be interesting to see how we would go playing Beaumaris a second time as the expectation was that they would have improved. So this game would be another pretty good measuring stick.

I thought the girls trained pretty well on Friday, as we put a significant emphasis on tackling, which was slightly lacking the previous week. The girls embraced the tackling drills as expected.

We had 12 girls available for the game, which was fantastic—only Maddi and Millie were not available for the game.

We named Tess captain for the day who won the toss, and we decided to kick to the end, favoured by a slight breeze. As with previous weeks, we didn't get away to a good start, allowing Beaumaris to get some easy goals against the breeze. Before we knew it was quarter time, and we were behind by 11 points. Things did not improve too much in the second quarter, and we found ourselves behind by 20 points at half time.

We decided to make some positional changes at halftime to make inroads into the opposition's lead. To the girls' credit, they played a fantastic second half of football. The girls dominated the third quarter, with the game played in our half of the ground for most of the quarter. We had many opportunities to score, and with a little more composure and polish, we could have scored more than the one goal we did score. At three-quarter time we found ourselves only behind by 11 points, and while I thought we were a chance to win, everything needed to go right if we were to secure a win. We did kick the first goal and were only down by 7 points but could not quite continue the momentum with Beaumaris kicking the last goal and running out winners by 13 points.

I was pretty happy with how the girls performed – the girls could quite easily have 'given up' with the halftime deficit, but they continued to work hard and persevere. The girls' effort was there, and we seemed to get the pressure and tackling aspects of our game back to the expected standard.

As I have mentioned before, we have several girls playing their first season of football, so we can only improve. If the girls continue to come to training and work hard and practice their skills outside of training, I think we will get a few more wins on the board before the end of the season.

Overall I think it was a pretty sound and even team effort.

This week's game is under lights at Scammell Reserve on Friday night against East Sandringham JFC, which is pretty exciting, and I know all the girls are looking forward to the game.



### Final Scores:

Beaumaris FC U12 Girls Great Whites: 6.5.41

Oakleigh: 4.4.28

Best Players: Team Effort

Goals: Tash 2, Sienna 1, Zoe 1

### U13 MIXED DARREN GRENFELL

Opponent: Home game vs Mordialloc Braeside

Result: Oakleigh Dragons won 73 - 16

Match Day Captain: Zeke

The Match in a paragraph: The boys were sent out in perfect weather with a simple message – to enjoy themselves. Aside from some early wayward kicking for goals, the boys certainly had a great afternoon. The match began with a banner to celebrate Zeke's 50<sup>th</sup> game. From there the boys worked hard to gain early control of the match. A solid 2-goal lead at half time was built on after the break, with more accurate kicking for goal helping the side to a 7 goal to 1 second half, and comfortable victory in the end.

#### Special mentions from the game:

- The marking masterclass put on by best afield Rayaana this week – capped off with a bag of 4 goals.
- Three times during the match that the team moved the ball from an intercept deep in defence, down the ground and up forward to have a shot on goal without the opposition touching the ball.
- The run and quick handball movement of the ball of by Seb, Rayaana, Mitch, and Oliver.
- The continued development of the team to man-up and play their positions for long periods of the game.
- The personal best performances of the season by Peter and Oscar.
- The dominant ruck work of Ben and Austin (again).
- Congratulations to Zeke (and get well soon). May we see many more good games from you in the green and yellow.
- Thanks to Campbell and Finn from the Under 12s for helping the team out and enabling us to play with a full side.

Goal Scorers: Rayaana (4), Oliver (2), Tom (2), Tyson (2)

### U14 MIXED TIM MORELAND

What a magic day for footy today with 19° and sunshine greeting us at Columbia Park where we took on the Waverly Park Hawks. Whilst we went in with confidence, we were outclassed today going down 73 - 53.

We started the game okay however that's pretty much where it was left as the Hawks' attack and consistency in getting their hands on the ball gave us a football lesson.

We had a couple of run and carry plays which resulted in scores for us, however we continually need to assess our defensive game to stop clearances and momentum of the opposition.

We were basically second to the football today which is not usual for our lads and we just didn't bring our fighting game when tested.

Tim, Bruce and I will continue to look at ways we can improve in order for us to play at our best. It just wasn't our day today but there's plenty of things we can work on so we'll go back to the drawing board and see what we can do.

One of those is a refocus on playing as a team and working hard for each other so we can get better as a group.



Credit to the opposition today - they were too good and we look forward to having a second crack at them on our home deck later in the year.

Training will definitely be on this week as we look forward to a bye next Sunday. Hope to have a few of our injured lads recover nicely for selection in a couple of weeks.

Go Dragons

### U14 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

We took on Hampton at Scammell on what was a brilliant day for footy.

We came out of the blocks flying with a fantastic first minute candy selling goal from Sienna Bernardo and we were up and about early. In only her 6th game of footy, Julia Lucchese was having a real impact and was involved in everything. The remainder of the quarter was a really even contest, and after conceding a late goal we went into the quarter time break 1 point up.

The second quarter we were shown up by a very good kicking team in Hampton as they moved the ball with ease and shot out to a couple of goal lead. The usual suspects in Chelsea, Indigo, Gracie, Fiona and Nicole kept on running and pressuring to help keep the margin at an achievable halftime deficit.

The third quarter came around and again we went missing a little bit. We seem to do this in all the games we have played this year. Luckily Hampton didn't expose us on the score board.

Going into the last quarter I urged the girls to make an impact and try to get back in the contest. To their credit even though we lost 13-42 they played the game out. Our "goal keeper" Jessica Hopgood played a fantastic last quarter stopping quite a few shots at goal. And Harriet Blight found her straps having a purple patch on the wing.

### U15 BOYS JOHN McLAUGHLIN

Opponent: East Sandringham - Away Game

Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 12 goals

The football Gods were smiling on us again and it was another great day for footy. We travelled over to Boss James Reserve to take on East Sandy.

Unfortunately, we were 2 players down from the previous week, Dylan through injury (knee injury, fingers crossed for the diagnosis this week) and Billy who is away on a school camp. That left us with only 17, East Sandy were great to provide a player to make 18 players.

We did not have our best quarter to start off with. The Dragons playing into the opposition's hands and we were not prepared to take the risks we need to play our footy. After ¼ time we played a much better brand of football and looked good at times. The team is committed to improvement all over the ground and we know it is going to take a big effort from everyone to become competitive with some of the Div. 2 teams. As a coaching group we are excited to see the team's level of improvement over the rest of the season. One thing we do know is that these young men will give their all, which is a credit to all of them

Special mentions from the game:





- Aden at full back was terrific and is having a fantastic season.
- Jake and Sam H also played good games down back.
- Jacko's 5 bounce run that would have been "goal of the year" if he had the energy left to kick it another couple of metres!
- The leadership group who lead the way in starting to play our brand of footy with quick ball movement and clean possession, thanks Oscar, Tom H and Specky.
- The most pleasing thing was the boys tried hard and never gave up. Something that the opposition coach highlighted to me at the end of the game.

Super effort by the boys and their families at our Grub on Sunday night. The food was delicious, and the service was 5 Star. A great bunch of young men on display!

Our thoughts are with Tom W and Dylan, wishing them both a speedy recovery.

See all the boys at training his week. We look forward to the challenges ahead.

### U16 GIRLS SIMON GREELY

vs St. Kilda City

When we played St. Kilda a few weeks ago they played all over us and easily beat us by 103 points. Therefore, our goal on Sunday was "To do/play better than last time". The team responded very well, especially after every activity at training last week was contested football.

The final margin of 69 points shows a 5 and a half goal improvement and St. Kilda had to work for every goal because of the great effort and determination of our team. I was very proud to see the resolve and 'never say die' attitude in our players and I look forward to seeing it every week.

During the match we provided them with 12 different players (including our captain) because they only had 14 players, and all 12 represented both clubs exceptionally well. I want to thank the following players for donning the St. Kilda jumper without any issues and playing well for them: Hailey, Gecko, Alice, Ashlee, Sam, Sophia, Mia, Mya, Freya, Adele, Lauren and Choetso. Also, Ruby, Hailey and Laura filled in admirably for the Under 18s earlier in the day after they had a few late withdrawals.

I also want to thank our parent group for their support of Isabelle, who now has her thumb in plaster and has avoided surgery at the moment. It was wonderful to see the genuine care provided when she was in a lot of pain.

We are moving to Division 4 next week so hopefully we can be a bit more competitive on the scoreboard, as it is clear we have already improved a lot over the last few weeks.

Scores: Oakleigh – 0.0.0 St.Kilda City – 9.15.69

Better players – a more consistent team effort was great to see, but special mention to Freya and Britney who went extremely hard at the footy all game.





### U17 BOYS FABIAN AMEDEO

The boys were up against Murrumbeena yesterday in terrific conditions. Unfortunately the boys had a baptism of fire against a highly skilled and professional team. We had our opportunities in the first quarter but couldn't capitalise on the score board.

The second quarter was better with a higher level of intensity but trailed by 18 at half time. From then on it was Murrumbeena who applied pressure with skill and speed to capitalise all over the ground.

In the last it was all one way. We lost young Ash to concussion mid-way through the last quarter which compounded a terrible day for the boys eventually going down by 70 points.

Jake Greenaway worked relentlessly all day. Jonah returned to form and competed all day, more often than not against two opponents. Michael, Sam and George worked really hard all day. Unfortunately we had too few contributors.

A shout out to the Murrumbeena boys and coaching staff who not only showed their class on the field but also off the field. To a man every lad and coach from Murrumbeena came over to our bench to shake Ash's hand and make sure he was okay. I can't speak highly enough of the Murrumbeena boys in the way they played and conducted themselves. An excellent example of how football should be played.

### U18 GIRLS MIA FORTUNE & MADDIE BOX

This week the Under 18 girls played Mordi Brae down in Parkdale. We were lucky enough to have Ruby, Laura and Hailey from the Under 16s fill in as we were short on numbers. It was a beautiful day and the perfect conditions for the girls to showcase their talent. The game started off pretty slow with a low scoring first quarter, but the girls managed to really pick up the pace for the rest of the day. The girls played hard at the footy, laid solid tackles and kicked some great goals.

Score: Oakleigh 7.12 - 54, Mordi Brae 1.5 - 11

Goals: Emma 4, Ruby 1, Kaitlyn 1 & Hailey 1

Best on: Emma, Kaitlyn & Matilda

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

In response to the findings of the Royal Commission into Child Safety in 2017, the SMJFL introduced minimum requirements to assist in ensuring the safety of our members. The Oakleigh Dragons fully support these measures, which require volunteers assisting in game day roles to hold a valid Working with Children Check.



Our teams rely solely on the assistance of volunteers from the team member group. Given every player's family is expected to help the team function, every player is expected to have at least one parent/carer that holds a valid WWCC.

All WWCC details must be entered into the Everproof database. To confirm your compliance, please talk to you Team Manager, or contact Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)



## 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	

