



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2022 ISSUE 1

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How good was it to see everyone back playing football in brilliant conditions?

A big thanks to everyone involved for getting all the teams on the field last Sunday. Behind the scenes the Oakleigh Dragons Committee have been working extremely hard to secure and kit out all the players. Thanks again!

The U15s did a great job catering for the first Grub at the Club which is always very popular. There was plenty of food and it's always great to see the kids and parents cleaning up at the end of the night! Thank you.

Last week the Oakleigh Dragons conducted our Life Skills Night with Tackle Your Feelings, Drug Education Australia and Neil from the Victorian Police, the night was a great success with our kids playing attention and also asking questions which was good. Thanks to all the guest speakers and the kids / parents for attending.

Next Grub at the Club is very special on ANZAC Eve, with ANZAC Day being on the Monday, the Club will be handing out ANZAC Day medals to a player in each age group. The U12 boys will be hosting this Grub at the Club.

Enjoy the Easter break and be safe.

Pat Heverin  
President

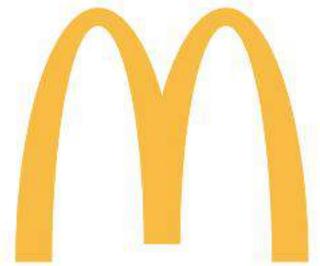
# GO DRAGONS

### 2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Pat Heverin  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary (Acting): Melita Keyword  
Treasurer: Tony Trent  
Registrar: Kane Leopold  
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Team Manager Co-ord: Jude Foster  
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**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc



## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED GREEN GARY GARCIA

What a way to start the season, playing two back-to-back games with only 14 players available!! Our first game was against tough opposition. A 16 manned Brighton Vampires side who were made to earn every possession through relentless pressure and hard tackling lead by our experienced midfield brigade David and Thomas. Despite the defeat, we came back firing in the second game. Special mentions to new recruits Francesco and Luke showing great skills and enthusiasm and combining with Ethan and Tommy were unstoppable in the forward line. Well done boys on a super effort!!

### U9 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

After 8 weeks of preseason training the under 9 yellow team were finally able to get on the park for our first official game of football. As part of the under 9 grading we played two games in windy conditions at Highett Reserve.

In the first game we came up a very experienced Beaumaris side who took control of the game in the second half and ran away with the win.

Game two against Ajax was a much tighter game but we went down narrowly in the end.

Our team played really well focusing on moving the ball quickly when kicking with the wind and defending tightly went kicking against it.

Most importantly was that everyone enjoyed themselves and had a smile on their faces at the end.

Really proud of the kids all playing their first official game but a special mention to Dion who captained brilliantly and Luke, Zoe, Will and Hamish for their competitive attack on the ball.

Have a great Easter all and see you after the break.

### U10 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE

The U10 Mixed team started their season with a home game against Beaumaris. With only 6 boys available from the corresponding fixture last year we honestly did not know what to expect.

The first quarter was on open/even contest with both teams trading goals and it looked like we were going to be involved in a tight tussle.

However this was not to be as for the remainder of the game the Dragons were dominant in all zones and all aspects of the game. It was pleasing watching the boys getting rewarded for their tackles, moving the ball between zones, creating space and our forwards marking cleanly and kicking straight.

Tougher games await us but it's always good to get a win for team morale. Training will continue throughout the holidays for any kids that are not away.

Finally it takes an amount of work in the background to get our season up and running – special thanks to Allen our team manager for all his work (ground set up at 7am!)

Go Dragons!



## U11 MIXED DAVID CASH

Round 1 had us up nice an early to a fantastic day of Junior Football in great weather, sun was shining, birds were singing and all the boys were keen to get back on the football field after their last game 252 days prior. Yes 252 days, wow hard to believe I know!

We played Cheltenham Panthers at their home ground of Le Page at 8.30am. With 12 Dragons rearing to go and Cheltenham loaning us 2 loan players per quarter (3 of our players were unable to play).

The enthusiasm was bubbling in boys as well as the parents, it is always an unknown going into the first game of the season, how good are we, how good are this opposition, how will we match up, all these questions and more going through our minds.

So down to the game, the boys had a fantastic crack and showed they matched football skills and attack on the ball with our opposition, the difference between the modified rules last year and the full ground this year was amazing, the players seemed to love it, the space and freedom was fantastic for all the players and very well received.

Some highlights were:

Strong attack on the ball, great marking skills and the repeat efforts by many players was a standout.

We were 2 points up at three-quarter time, but unfortunately in the last quarter we couldn't match them, against the wind and having run hard for the first three-quarters playing 14v15, left us fighting an uphill battle and we suffered a 4 goals 3 to Nil quarter, but although all the players came off with their head down, it was quickly pointed out that there was no need to be upset, more practice and more fitness and with our other players back, we would be more than competitive with that team – so I am really looking forward to a rematch.

U11 Mixed Boys – I am proud of every one of you. Great first game - hold your heads high.

## U12 GIRLS PAUL ZAUCH

This week the Under 12 girls went down to a more experienced St Paul's McKinnon Bulldogs at Tucker Road. Kicking against a strong wind in the first quarter unfortunately we fell behind and played "catch up footy" for the rest of the game.

Impressively our Dragons did not give up one single bit. They worked hard all day, focussing on the skills they have been learning over the last few weeks. This meant we saw some excellent team work and brave individual efforts. The result of this was that we were able to draw the second half 2.3 to 2.3 - an absolutely fantastic result for our team. I was proud of each and every one of you.

At "Grub" on Sunday I said that Semira and Miette had been our two best players for the day, so for this report I would like to concentrate on some other positives from the day.

1. Well done Kiana for kicking a fantastic goal. You have already equalled your 2020 season goal tally!!
2. Ita - so close to getting your first goal too. It will come soon very soon - I'm sure. Keep practicing guiding the ball onto your boot. Your kicking has improved so much in a few weeks.
3. Vicky and Nadia - keep putting your heads over the footy when it comes your way. You are both showing great courage. You should be proud of your efforts.

I've no doubt girls if we keep the effort up and keep practicing our skills, we will be singing our song very, very soon!! Better practice the words over your Easter break!!



## U12 GIRLS TONY WARD

We had a few disruptions this week – Tony our coach had COVID, two girls were unavailable and two further girls went down on the morning of the game (Tessy, get well soon, and Sienna good luck with your recovery) meaning we started the game with only 9 players and hence had to forfeit. Luckily Prahran had 16 players and were able to loan us three players during the game so we had a “friendly”.

It was the first time for all of our players to play unmodified rules on the full ground and on a warm and windy afternoon Maddi was captain for the day. She unfortunately lost the toss so we were kicking against a strong wind for the first quarter. The ball spent much of the time in our backline and were it not for Zoe, Skye and Tahlia in our backline and Maddi and Edie in the midfield the score of one goal to nil at quarter time would have been worse.

We had most of the play in the second quarter but couldn't quite finish it off and a goal against the run of play by Prahran meant we went into half time 2 goals to nil down.

We switched things around in the third quarter, Skye and Tahlia and Camryn all went into the midfield and Alicia into the backline and all had strong quarters. Zoe, Misaki and Edie were all continuing to do well, Misaki laying a number of good tackles that were rewarded with free kicks.

We switched things around again at three quarter time and put all Dragons players in the midfield and forward line and Maddi playing loose across half back. Mim, who was playing her first ever game of football went into the midfield with Zoe, and Camryn and Alicia went back into the forward line and all had really strong quarters. Mim showed a lot of courage and got into the bottom of the packs and got the ball out to our runners, Alicia and Camryn worked really well together such that Camryn kicked three goals for the quarter and we won the game by three points – three goals to two.

Well done to all the girls and thanks for letting me coach for the day.

Make sure you have a kick over the holidays and have a great Easter and we will see you at training on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## U12 MIXED GREEN PAUL VAN OOSTEN

My name is Reagan Quinn, and I am the assistant coach of U12's Green team. It wasn't the ideal start to the day when I checked my phone in the morning to see that two of our players could not play due to COVID. Making matters worse, one of the boys (Aiden) was the son of our coach Paul, so I was in the hot seat!!! To our fortune, Sienna Leopold asked if she could play with our team and we accepted gratefully. So all up, we had 18 players raring to go!

We played Hampton Rovers away at Hampton. During the warm up, I reiterated two points we wanted to execute during the game. The first, being tackle pressure and the second to not stop running. The kids delivered this request openly and did very well. It was a rather hot day with a steady wind going to one side of the ground. Luckily, we won the toss and elected to kick with the wind in the first quarter. We were a tad inaccurate, kicking 3 goals 7 behinds to no score but we were playing the way we wanted to. We extended our lead into the second and third quarter, keeping Hampton to a small score. Having the last quarter with the wind, Hampton pegged their way back kicking 3 goals to our one, but the game was over, Oakleigh winning by 37 points.

Notable players for the game were Curtis playing in the midfield the entire game and never stopped running. Mony, who dominated in the ruck, giving his team mates the first opportunity to win the ball. Will, who is making great progress and starting to have a real impact on the game. Jack, who despite his size, tackles like a monster and is continuing to run in the right positions. Tom, after breaking his leg almost 7 months ago, is on the way to recovery, kicking 3 goals. And Charlie, playing in the forward line, kicking two goals (unlucky not to have 3 goals – one just touched on the goal line).



Special mention must go to Sienna who injured herself by fracturing her wrist. Only 10 minutes before she hurt herself, she laid the tackle of the match, winning a free kick and inspiring her team mates, as to how to do it.

Overall, I was very pleased with way we played, and although we have much to work on, it was a great start to the season and am looking forward to how the season unfolds.

## U12 MIXED YELLOW TIM MORELAND

Hi everyone - Round 1 and we took on East Brighton Vampires at home (Scammell Reserve). In what was a big improvement from the weather of last weeks practice game, however both teams had to contend with a stiff breeze favouring the southern end of the ground. We played pretty well in patches and I thought our third quarter put us in a position to win the game, with our want for the ball and work rate. We didn't quite capitalise on our chances in the last and we ended up escaping with a lucky draw at the end of the day 36 - 36.

A huge thanks to the under 10's who came up and didn't only just fill some gaps, were excellent in their endeavour and effort. Cuon, Harrison, Fynn and Carlos - many thanks to you and your parents for allowing playing up. All four of you had a big hand in our game result today.

At times we again played some really good footy running the ball from half back and into our forward line. Andrew, Paul and Eamon propelled some good attacks through the middle whilst Max and Robbie steadied the defence. Cam and Eamon swapped nicely through the wings and when we needed some change up, Archie and Darcy R were able to slot straight in and continue the team efforts across the middle of the ground.

Up forward, Troy was dangerous and kicked 2 goals, Jethro always supported his team mates and Ollie was a terrier which ultimately cost him a quarter on the bench with a bang on the nose.

Harland and Cooper are really producing a nice Ruck/Rover partnership and their contests around the ball were good today. Fionn is a steady ship and can read the play really well across half back - but can also impact the contest across half forward. His versatility is a handy acquisition. Darcy M runs all day in multiple positions giving our team some drive and direction. Whilst he can gather and propel the ball into our forward half - he also provides many defensive and attacking tackles in an effort to turn the ball over. Well done gents!

We're still learning a lot so please be patient as we keep looking forward and practicing our craft. What is pleasing, is the lads are definitely trying to put some of our learnings in place and whilst don't always come off, are a good sign that we are improving our understanding moving forward.

Great to be part of the team everyone - and again huge thanks to all the help each week. Jean, Mark, Jason and Cath near the bench and everyone else filling the other essential roles each week. Great team effort and well done on Round 1.

NOTE: We will train through the school holidays however we appreciate families may have holiday commitments.



## U13 MIXED ANDREW GREEN

This year the under 13's have formed a solid team of 23 players and are ready for the 2022 season.

We lost a few players at the end of last season but have now gained two new players, Milan and Charlie who have been welcomed to our team and excited to play with the Dragons. The team has put in a solid preseason with great attendance at our Wednesday night training sessions. All players have been working on their skills and efforts.

Last week we welcomed the opportunity to play St Pauls / McKinnon in a preseason practice match. It was a competitive game which enabled us to blow out the cobwebs and get game ready for the season start. While there was no scoring the boys reliably informed me that we won by a several goals. A big thank you to Dave Cash for organising the practice matches with St Pauls.

Round 1 we played Mordialloc Braeside at their home ground near DFO Moorabbin. While it was a beautiful day there was a strong 5 goal wind straight down the middle of the ground which was going to make for an interesting game. We lost the toss but that didn't matter as we had already chosen to kick with the wind in the first quarter and we were granted that wish.

The boys were a bit rusty, but we were able to load on 5 goals and go into the quarter time break with confidence. With a few changes on the white board, we firmed up our defensive structure and the boys prevented Mordi Brae from taking advantage of the wind and we were able to score a few handy goals ourselves against the wind.

The day was hot so the boys hydrated and rested through the half time break and then went onto play a convincing 3rd quarter and then open the sails for a nice 4th quarter to round off the game.

The scores were Oakleigh 11.10-76 to Mordi-Brae 3.0-18

We will continue to train through the holiday period and look forward to Round 2.

## U14 MIXED GLENN THOMSON

Oakleigh JFC U14            5.6.36

vs

Waverley Park Hawks    4.11.35

Goals Oliver T 4, Rayaan K 1

I would like to thank U12 boys for helping out the Under 14's. Cooper Smith, Troy Morton, Andrew Macrae and Fion Hourihane. They showed great spirit and didn't shy away from any contest, you are welcome to fill in for us anytime.

Forwards presented consistently all day and worked hard to lock the ball in the forward line.

Midfield Cracked in at the contest and moved the ball well considering the pressure being applied by the opposition, wings did a good job pushing into the back line to help out.

Backs held up well under extreme pressure repelling attacks and rebounding deep from within our defensive 50. In the last quarter, the boys showed real composure to hang on to a one point lead!

Well done on our first win!



## U15 BOYS ZAC BARRETT

On a warm Sunday morning, the U15 boys ventured out to Koornang Park to officially launch their 2022 season. After a long and hot preseason, the boys were extremely keen to get back out there and play for points - and with Ryan Taranto playing his 100th game, the stakes were high!

Amid tricky conditions, the Dragons were jumped in the first quarter, with Caulfield booting 5 goals 4 to our 2 behinds.

After regrouping, the boys showed some fire in their belly, making their presence known, but the Caulfield polish and skill was too much, and at half time the margin had blown out to 10 goals.

The third quarter unfortunately followed the same theme, Caulfield proving themselves a great foe - but to the boys credit, they never stopped putting their head over the ball and working for each other.

The final quarter saw a late push by the Dragons, and despite not reflecting on the scoreboard - we won the game around the ground, with our tackling pressure again coming up trumps.

Despite the final margin, it wasn't all bad for the Dragons - Tyrone Interrigi, Giorgios Antonopolous and Daniel Macrae all played excellently, along with a host of others.

You can't keep a good team down long, and I have a feeling this team has got some special performances to come - watch this space!

## U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Perfect weather at Scammell greeted the girls for their opening game against St Peter's. However due to COVID and holidays our 26 strong list was depleted to just 15 players.

Kicking into the wind, Emily playing her first game for the Dragons kicked our only goal of the quarter. Whilst Mia had a ripping start to the game repelling entry after entry to help us keep in touch and be down by only 1 goal at quarter time. A lull in the 2nd quarter saw St Peter's kick 2 more goals but we weren't out of it at the big break.

The 3rd quarter was very even so going into the last we decided to change the team around. We seemed to click and moved the ball with a little more confidence and accuracy, the Shaw twins started to impact in their new roles. Whilst Harriet and Ella also lifted and applied grunt and great pressure. Chanel tackled her heart out and Gracie chipped in to kick our second goal. Unfortunately we ran out of stamina and went down 2-2-14 to 6-3-39. Can't wait to get everyone back and at play at full strength.

## U16 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

**Opponent:** Waverley Park Hawks **Home Game**

**Result:** Oakleigh Dragons won by 88 points

The Football Gods were smiling on us, and Scammell Reserve was in fantastic condition for the first game of the 2022 season. The weather was perfect for footy and the Dragon under 16s were ready to go. Many of the guys had arrived early to support their friends in the Dragons U16 Girls game - these girls are also a great support to us. The Hawks are our real rivals and have been for many years, so to get one up early was important.

Firstly, congratulations to the appointed co-captains Tommy H and "Specky" Bernardo. Also, in the leadership group as vice Captains are Billy R and Oscar M and this year, we have also added Jackson L and James M to this leadership group. We are extremely lucky to attract some new players who are going to be great asset to the team, not only are these



people good footballers but also fantastic young men who we welcome, and their families, with open arms. We also have Borgy returning, and we say welcome home to all the family.

Unfortunately, we had 6 players out, due to various reasons on the day. The game was organised as 16 a side match. Our preseason had been good for most players, but we knew it was going to a challenge with no one on the bench in the hot conditions. The first quarter, with the Dragons kicking against the breeze saw us work hard and show great endeavour to be ahead by a few points at the break. It was an arm wrestle for the second quarter with the Hawks hitting the front, they had some good players causing some concerns. At half time we spoke about how we wanted to play – run and carry and clean possessions. The 3rd quarter was a highlight as we kicked 9 goals to 1, the ball bounced our way and our guys fitness showed out as we started to really run in numbers and link up to score freely, this was against the breeze so a great quarter of footy. The final quarter was a 6 goal to zero quarter with all players contributing.

Special mentions from the game:

- The form of all the new players was a real bonus. Elliot was a live wire all day and ended up with 4 goals, we won't talk about the time he hit the post from close range – the crowd certainly liked it! Joey who was hard running and tough at the ball, Borgy who showed great pace and was clean with the ball, Josh who had a good all-round game and did the team thing and stopped one of their better players and Ashwin, who just joined the team, showed real dash and will be damaging with the left foot.
- The run and carry of the two wingers Jacko and JD – exciting stuff. Jacko L must have had 12 bounces throughout the day. The work rate of Tom H which we now come to expect. The goal kicking of Billy, 6 and Hady 4. The two key backs were good – Aden and Tommy W who used pace and aggression well.
- A terrific game by Jimmy who gave the onballers first use of the ball and marked the ball well. Several times the ball got out to the centre bounce cleanly to hit a leading forward.
- The boys certainly look like they are having fun, 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 this week. Well done on your first efforts.



## SMOKE-FREE

By law, smoking is banned within 10 metres (about two car lengths) of any public outdoor sporting venue during an organised under-18s event.

The ban includes training or practice sessions to prepare for an organised under-age sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.



## 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
10-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	School Holidays	U15 Boys
17-Apr	NO GAMES				Easter Sunday	
24-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	School Holidays	U12 Mixed
1-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		
8-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	Under 9 Mixed
15-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		
22-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		U10 Mixed & U11 Mixed
29-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		
5-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U12 & U14 Girls
12-Jun	NO GAMES				Queen's Birthday	
19-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U16 & U18 Girls
26-Jun	NO GAMES				School Holidays	
3-Jul	NO GAMES				School Holidays	
10-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	School Holidays	U13 Mixed
17-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
24-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Mixed
31-Jul	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
7-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		
14-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		U16 Boys
21-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
28-Aug			Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals		
4-Sep				Grand Finals	Father's Day	





## 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

## 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. In accordance with the league policy that has been in place for some years, there are no exemptions for VIT or Police. If you would like to understand the league's position on this, please email Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)



**WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK VICTORIA**

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/guardian that holds a valid WWCC.

If you do not hold a current WWCC card, please apply for one asap at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> and quote Occupation Codes #42 and #70