

# SEASON 2022 ISSUE 2

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We were very lucky with another great day for football on Sunday! Let's enjoy these days before the Winter weather sets in! Some great results around the grounds. Don't forget we're still in the grading part of the season, so there might be some changes ahead. We should see some more fixture details shortly.

A wonderful turn out to Grub at the Club on Sunday night, a big thanks to all the U12s families that helped out to feed the masses! Well done! And a big thanks to our Life Member and past Bar Manager Jim Hall for coming along to hand out the Anzac Day medals. Congratulations to all our medal winners who showed their courage on the ground.

It was great to see the Dragons turn out at the Anzac Day dawn service on Monday morning to pay their respects. Great to see our community getting behind this important event.

Please note our next Grub has now been brought forward to avoid clashing with Mother's Day. U9s will be hosting this Sunday 1st May.

Don't forget our Trivia Night on Friday 13 May! Dress theme - Friday the 13th of course! This is always a fantastic night out, get a table together from your team and come along for some laughs.

GO DRAGONS!

## **GO DRAGONS**

2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS President: Pat Heverin Vice President: Vacant Secretary (Acting): Melita Keywood Treasurer: Tony Trent Registrar: Kane Leopold Child Safety Officer: Marnie Morton Incident Co-ordinator: Sonya Moreland Compliance: Kathy McGeoch Sponsorship: Phil Sturrock General Committee: Mark D'Rozario

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## CLAYTON & CHADSTONE









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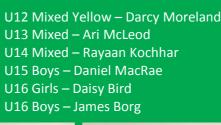
#### ANZAC DAY PRESENTATION

The Club was delighted to welcome back Life Member Jim Hall to present the Anzac Day medals to our deserving winners. It was our honour to have Jim along, presenting the awards in his SAS beret.

Jim served many years on the Dragons Committee and continued on as our Bar Manager even after his boys Benjamin and Jackson had finished their junior football years at the Dragons.

Congratulations to our Anzac medal winners who showed tremendous courage on game day.

U9 Mixed Yellow – Raj Arora U9 Mixed Green – David Garcia U10 Mixed – Finn Thomson U11 Mixed – Alessandro Paine U12 Girls – Sophia Francis U12 Mixed Green – Mony Nyok







SEASON 2022 ISSUE 2 ROUND 2 / SUNDAY 24 APRIL

#### MILESTONE GAMES!





#### COACHES' REPORTS

#### **U9 MIXED GREEN GARY GARCIA**

Considering another long weekend and people still away, it was great to see an almost full team on the ground. We had 18 available players but an undermanned Hampton Rovers side meant we had to reshuffle our line-up.

Having 3 on the bench gave us an opportunity to play players in different positions. With most of our guy's relishing the moment. Although we came short, there were great contributions from a number of players. Ethan's second quarter was something to rave about! Marco's first game performance was another highlight, kicking his first goal and applying a ton of pressure.

Great to see such great commitment and enthusiasm... Well done boys!!

#### **U9 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES**

The under 9 yellow team played in perfect conditions away to Cheltenham.

In the first three quarters we were outplayed by a more experienced side trailing by 44 points. But the final quarter we witnessed some fantastic football from our team playing the best we have seen all season. Wyatt took some great marks in defence, Blake moved the ball magnificently all game driving the ball deep into attack, Lucas as captain played really well with his second efforts and moving the ball along and Raj (winner of Anzac medal) kicked the team's first goal of the season during a great attacking game from him.

In the end we won the last quarter but went down by 37 points. Cheltenham 7.10.52 to Dragons 2.3.15

Captains: Kian, Lucas Goal kickers: Raj, Thomas

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Thanks to our wonderful group of parents for the continued positive encouragement which the team really felt throughout the match. As we team continue to get to know each other we will see improved performances like the last quarter today.

#### **U10 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE**

Our opponents for round 2 were Bentleigh - away from home - 15 a side and a full size ground. I used this game as an opportunity to look at some of the boys in different positions. I was pleasantly surprised how it worked overall - the downside of this approach was we were left short at certain stages of the game but we had enough class overall to come through.

We had a strong first quarter with some impressive run and carry from our midfielders and good finishing from our forwards. Bentleigh came back hard in the second quarter where we struggled to match them in the middle and looked tired. Most boys changed zones for the second half of the game which gave us some renewed confidence and balance throughout the field. We comfortably maintained a solid 4 goal lead for the remainder of the game. Well done boys, that was another impressive victory.

Special mention this week to Finn Thompson who was awarded the U10s Anzac Medal for his commanding and powerful performance against Bentleigh – well done Finn.

Go Dragons

#### **U11 MIXED DAVID CASH**

Another great weather day, an 8am start with a dew on the ground, but by the end of the game the day was fantastic. We came up against a team that put pressure on us all over the ground and didn't allow us to play our game at all.

A big thankyou to the U10's player that joined our team, six in total giving us 18 players (3 x u11'S unavailable) and every one of you put in great efforts in the game, thanks so much to you all.

Welcome to Ben for his first game of football, well done you got your hands on the ball a number of times, and I look forward to seeing your football develop week to week it was a tough game for the first one, but you did well. A special mention to Alex P who was our ANZAC Medal winner, a very courageous game from start to finish, well done and well deserved.

The other player I will give a special mention to is Jaron, he didn't think he played very well, but he continued to contribute all game, and in his own words started slow and still in the second half didn't get to where he wanted to get, but he played the entire game in the centre stopped many goals and was also responsible for helping get the ball forward as well.

Overall we came up against a team that were a higher level than us, but that's what the grading games are for to get teams in a divisions where close games are the target. Keep positive boys, we have a lot of learning to take on board and an exciting football season to come, even losing the way we did, there were a lot of positives that Leigh and I saw that I know we will build on.

#### **U12 GIRLS TONY WARD**

U12 Girls Pool B (Non-Mod) - R2 Match Report: Tony Ward / Darren Taylor South Melbourne Districts (SMD) v Oakleigh Dragons (Murphy Reserve, Port Melbourne)

We played away against South Melbourne Districts.

The U12 Girls commenced the season with two girls teams, but after round one, it was decided to combine the girls team into one team to play in Pool B, Non-Modified rules – which was fantastic. We had 22 girls available for the game this week. The opposition team only had 15 players, so to have both teams play with 15 players on the ground, we 'loaned' them two girls per quarter to play for them. Before the game, we emphasised some critical aspects: effort, talking, tackling, kicking to space, running and pressure.

We named Semira captain for the day, and unfortunately, we lost the toss and commenced the game kicking against a slight breeze. We went into the game with a pretty good structure and were confident of performing well.

We came up against a pretty good SMD side, and we were pretty much behind the 'eight ball' from early in the first quarter. Even though I thought the girls trained pretty well on Friday, I thought we were a bit off our game and only played in patches. Our key strengths – tackling and running – were a little off, and we allowed SMD to get some easy kicks and some easy goals, especially in the third quarter.

Overall, when the entire match is looked at, even though I don't think we were near our best if you take the third quarter away, it was an even contest for the other three quarters. The pleasing thing is that the girls ran the game out and had a fantastic closing 10 minutes where they dominated play and kicked two goals. As I said to the team after the game, we will certainly get the results if we can play as we did in the final 10 minutes for most of the game.

Overall, the effort was there, and I know there is room for improvement from all the girls.

Some key callouts:

- Tash ran and pressured hard all day, Zoe tackled and worked hard, and Maddi, Miette, and Misaki ran hard and presented all day. We have a mix of experienced girls and girls who are playing their first season of football, so no one should get too disheartened. It just gives us some more things to work on at training.
- Sophia was awarded the ANZAC day medal given that this was Sophia's first game of football, and she was thrown into the deep end to play in the ruck, her tenacity and willingness to get to the contest was fantastic. A truly worthy winner of the award.
- To all the girls who played a quarter for the opposition a big thanks I was very proud of how you all conducted yourself.

See you all at training on Friday – don't forget your mouth guards and helmets (if you wear one).

Final Scores: SMD: 8.5.53 Oakleigh Dragons: 3.2.20

Best Players (in no particular order): Zoe, Misaki, Maddi, Tash, Miette, Sophia Goals: Tash 1, Edie 1, Mim 1



#### **U12 MIXED GREEN PAUL VAN OOSTEN**

Following a strong start to our season in Round 1, the boys were excited to be playing their first home game of the season at W.A. Scammell Reserve against Caulfield Bears. In what were pretty close to perfect conditions for junior footy, the boys were switched on right from the start which enabled them to continue on with their good form from the previous week. From the outset our tackling and defensive pressure was excellent leading to many turnovers whilst our offensive running and willingness to support each other and provide multiple attacking options allowed the boys to move the ball down field with greater fluency and purpose.

As a coaching group we absolutely love it when the boys start to carry over the work we are doing at training into games so it was particularly pleasing to see the boys working really hard with and without the ball which suggests that they are starting to do, and understand the importance of, the little things that tend to go unnoticed but which make a real difference for our team. Just as importantly, we also spend a fair bit of time at training each week working on ball movement so, once again, we were really impressed with the way the boys moved the ball down the field, often stringing together multiple handballs to clear the contest followed by a kick to a teammate who had made great position further down the field.

Whilst we certainly have some talented young footballers in our team, our strength is the evenness we have across the entire field, and it is this evenness that allowed us to come away with a comprehensive 10-9-69 to 1-2-8 victory. Every one of our boys is capable of playing great footy in multiple positions and, as their confidence continues to grow, we can't wait to see what they, and this team, may be able to achieve.

#### **U12 MIXED YELLOW TIM MORELAND**

What a way to commemorate Anzac Day with a day of sunshine at King George reserve as we took on Bentleigh. With Max and Cameron unavailable, we thank Paul and the other U12 team for lending us Tom, Aidan, Ajay, Shasha, Liam & Charlie who slid into the team seamlessly and all performed very well for us. Great effort lads and thank you.

The lads were pumped up after the 'last post' rendition and we matched them although slightly down at quarter time. Cooper and Harland were crashing in and revved up around the middle whilst, Tom, Ethan, Jethro and Robbie soaked up the manning up/defence instructions to a tee. Loved a couple of Jethro's tackles when the ball was getting pumped into our backline.

Across our flanks Archie, Darcy R and Ollie were focussing on getting to the front and centre of the ball at aerial contests and found themselves getting regular access to the ball. Ollie was clean below his knees today which was pleasing.

We were slightly up at half time however our third quarter didn't quick bring the intensity we had shown in the first half. Eamon shifted through the wings and backline and was always contributing, whilst we pushed Troy up the ground from his usual forward spot and his team efforts were duly noted. Troy regularly shepherded for his teammates whilst also competing for the ball which was exceptional.

Andrew and Paul were consistently attacking the ball trying to move it forward our way and their run and carry were good to watch at times. There were some really encouraging passages of play throughout the day where the boys were looking up and hitting targets frequently. I recall one in particular where Fionn took a strong mark deep in defence, played on quickly to a long kick to hit Darcy M, another quick kick to a strong Troy grab and then deep into our forward line. Really impressive and the lads did this a few times today which is exactly the style of play we're looking for. The challenge for us now is to back this up and continue to try and be consistent in this area.

After being down by about 15 points in the last quarter, the boys stepped to another level and fought extremely hard to pepper our forwards and we ended up getting over the line by 4 points. Great team last quarter.



Go Dragons

Our ANZAC medalist was Darcy M. Those at the game would have seen his efforts through contested marks, tackles, run & kicking delivery and his on field leadership. He booted 5 goals and was everywhere even with an opposition tag. He didn't want me to tell anyone - however he was physically ill before and game and almost pulled out however hung in there and was outstanding.

I was really proud of the lads today and I reckon we got a really good look at some of the footy and effort they can display on any given day. Of course there is always things to practice and learn, however it was a really good team game today. Many thanks again to all the crew. Mark, Jason and I are communicating well and constantly trying to work with the boys on their footy whilst Jean is an amazing TM. Thanks Cath as trainer and to all the weekly volunteers in various roles - thank you. Also great to see the "Grub" contribution with meals.



#### **U13 MIXED ANDREW GREEN**

This week the under 13's played at Scammel in glorious conditions against Ashwood and came away with a convincing 136 to 6 win.

The boys played well with linking handballs, ground ball pickups and kicking to space created. Shepherds and good tacking pressure were also on display and a highlight of our game. I also asked the boys to really concentrate on their skills and not to get too excited about the win as grading will soon sort us out and more competitive games are around the corner.

Six of our boys offered to assist the under 14's play this week and special thank you goes to Jack, Josh, Mitchell, Elliott S, Hamish and Hunter in a 9.00 am tussle with Ormond. However with a few weary legs we requested some assistance from the under 12's who played up to help and a big thank you goes to Josh, Heath, Tash and Rhys.

The Anzac day medal was awarded to Ari who played a great game providing strong leads, presenting for the ball and winning in the forward line. While he kicked a handsome number of goals it was Ari's courageous effort to win the ball and convert that stood out. The decision, however, was difficult with some awesome efforts from Nathan, Campbell and Oskar.

Looking forward to round 3 and a more challenging game.

#### **U14 MIXED GLENN THOMSON**

Oakleigh JFC U14	10.14.74
VS	
Ormond	1.2.8

Goals : O.Palmer 2, E.Kingsley 2, M.Morton 2, T.Rabel, 1 T.Morton 1, O.Thomson 1, J.Seabrook 1

I would like to thank the U13 boys for helping out the Under 14's, Hamish, Hunter, Mitch.P, Elliott.S, Josh.S, Jack.S and Troy Morton. They showed great Anzac spirit, superb skills and awesome attack at the contest. I can see that you are well coached and you are welcome to fill in for us anytime.



Forwards worked hard to lock the ball in the forward line with real endeavour to tackle and chase. Area for improvement is our composure in front of goal.

Midfields, I asked the midfield and ruckmen to set the tone of the game and be really physical at the contest which they did well winning stoppages and giving us good ground position. Wings were disciplined in their role holding their width to give options and pushing into the back line to help out.

Backs squeezed the ground well and when the opposition did get the ball out the back they pushed hard back to nullify their attacks.

Lastly, congratulations to Rayaan on winning the Anzac Day medal.

Overall a fantastic team effort! Looking forward to tougher challenges ahead.

#### **U15 MIXED ZAC BARRETT & MASON ANSELL**

After a less than ideal first round result, the U15's boys were itching to get onto the winners list in round 2.

Their first home game of the year was set to be a great match up against St. Paul's, whom they had triumphed over in a practice match a few weeks prior.

From the first bounce, the boys showed grit and determination to get the game on their terms - however St. Paul's were up to the task, and kicked themselves to a two goal lead at quarter time.

After the quarter time re-group, the boys continued their attack on the football - time and time again winning the contest, but a lack of polish led to the opposition adding to their lead.

After halftime - the boys put into practice everything they had worked on at training, they ran hard for one another, and managed to trouble the scorers more than the opposition - the contest had been evened out but there was still work to be done.

Going into the final quarter, a renewed approach saw the Dragons control most of the play. Midfield dominance was assured with great performances from Jake Ansell, Bailey Moreland and Daniel MacRae - but unfortunately it was not enough, with St. Paul's running away with the game.

Despite the loss, the boys played with heart all day - not once did they ease their attack on the ball, and not once did they believe it was a game that could not be won.

As coaches we are very proud of the effort the boys put in, and while a medal may have been appropriate for every person on that field, ultimately it was Daniel MacRae who was awarded the coveted Anzac Day medal. His determination and sheer willpower to win the football and work hard for his teammates was consistent for four quarters - and we believe his performance embodied what Anzac Day is all about for a footballing community.

#### **U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO**

Anzac Round is a special week in the footy calendar. In my pre-game speech I reminded the girls about the importance of Anzac Day and what it means for a lot of people.

They went out and followed my instructions and all those training drills to a tee. Within a minute the girls had moved the ball down to the forward line before Gracie slotted the first goal of the game. Then Brighton vampires started to



gain control and went forward on many occasions. If it wasn't for the pressure of Eva, Chanel, Olivia, Julia and Lauren we would have been down way more than just 4 points at 1/4 time.

Solid performances from Emily, Chelsea, Fiona, Daisy and Nicole nullified a second quarter ball dominance from Brighton and we were still in the hunt at 1/2 time.

The third quarter showed me that Harriet is a natural forward not only can she take a good mark but she was very handy around the goals with a great snap and her first goal for the season. Everyone started to link up and we showed promise and belief going into the last quarter.

Brighton kicked a quick goal in the last and skipped out to a 3 goal lead. Our Anzac medalist Daisy dominated and like the Anzac spirit the Dragons never gave up. On the final siren Sienna took a mark and kicked a long distance goal to get us back to within 13 points it was a loss but an honourable one.

#### **U16 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN**

Opponent: Prahran Away Game Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 19 points

The Football Gods were smiling on us for a very early 9am start. Toorak Park was in good condition for our first away game of the 2022 season. Prahran are a talented team that beat the Dragons by more than 10 goals last year so we knew we would need to play well to be competitive, this was a real test for the team.

Firstly, we welcomed Lachie for his first game to the club, he played very well and had some very important clearances when the game was in the balance. It was also great to see Bailey in the rooms with us after an illness has kept him away for a long time, we look forward to him playing again when he is 100% recovered. Also, a special mention to Dylan, who is out for the season with a knee injury, he is good enough to be assisting the boys with the water duties. We also have a new player to the club, Nick Goodman, who also has a long-term injury, helping at training and match day where he can. The team has a great feel about it now and these boys really add to this.

We needed to get off to a good start and we did this immediately with a quick goal out from a centre break, when Specky Bernardo came rushing out of the centre to find our key forward, Billy, on the lead, he goaled, and the Dragons were away! We took the lead and kept it until the final siren. The conditions were very slippery, and it was difficult to get clean possession, this made the game a slog at times. Prahran are a high possession team that tried to link up with lots of handball, I think on a dry day they will be harder to stop. Something to consider for next time.

We were 3 goals to one at ¼ time and 5 goals to 3 at half time. Unfortunately, Ashwin came down heavily on his shoulder in the second quarter and had to go to hospital, we have since heard he has break in a bone in the shoulder and will be out for a number of weeks, get well soon mate.

The second half was hard fought, and we seemed to get away from our play-on style of football, this is understandable in the slippery conditions, it wasn't always pretty but it was effective. We were expecting Prahran to come back at us in the last half which they did but the boys stood up to this well with some great defensive pressure, congratulations to all the backline for a job well done. At three-quarter time we were 8 goals to 4 and we ended up winning by 19 points, a great result, and very exciting times. This was a 13-goal turnaround from last year and also the first time we had beaten this team. We believe there is more a fair bit more improvement in this team, it's a matter of hard work on the training track and game day.

Special mentions from the game:

• The form of Specky Bernardo in the first half was nothing short of sensational, we asked the leaders to show the way and he certainly did that, a great game and his attack on the ball was a real highlight. All the mid field did a good job.



SEASON 2022 ISSUE 2 ROUND 2 / SUNDAY 24 APRIL

A special mention to Josh who played a good game including an amazing third quarter to help us keep on top of the opposition. Jimmy is playing some good footy and growing in confidence every game.

- The half back line was excellent all day, our Anzac Day medallist, Borgy, showed real class and had a cracker of a game, Tommy White was strong and great on his left foot and Joey was again very good, his second and third efforts are a coach's dream.
- Another terrific game by Billy at CHF his high marking is really something to see. We ask a lot of Billy, and he keeps on delivering, he along with Hady kicked 3 goals each.

#### **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.

#### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

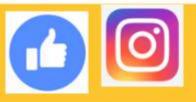
In response to the findings of the Royal Commission into Child Safety in 2017, the SMJFL introduced minimum requirements to assist in ensuring the safety of our members. The Oakleigh Dragons fully support these measures, which require volunteers assisting in game day roles to hold a valid Working With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



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.working.winehildrengie.com/ and quote Occupation Codes #42 and #70

#### SOCIAL MEDIA



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SEASON 2022 ISSUE 2 ROUND 2 / SUNDAY 24 APRIL

# OAKLEIGH DRAGONS TRIVIA NIGHT

### THEME: FRIDAY THE 13TH GATHER THE GANG AND GET COMPETITIVE!

FRIDAY THE 13TH OF MAY 7:00PM TICKETS \$15 PAY AT THE CANTEEN, BAR DURING GRUB AT THE CLUB, OR VIA BANK DEPOSIT: BSB 633000, ACC 156380958 DESCRIPTION: "TRIVIA - NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS"

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#### 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		Under 9 Mixed
8-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
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	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		
	Carnival					
14-Aug		Lightning	Round 15	Round 15		U16 Boys
		Carnival				
21-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
28-Aug			Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals		
				Grand Finals	Father's Day	

4-Sep



It was a full house at Grub at the Club on Sunday. Everyone listened eagerly as the Anzac medal winners were announced.

Thanks again to the under 12 teams for catering.