



THE ACORN

SEASON 2022 ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone,

Another big week at Scammell Reserve with 7 games being played on Sunday. A big thanks to all helpers as it was a great effort to play 7 home games without any problems. The canteen staff led by Yijing were fantastic and the ground set up / pack up went off without a problem. Thanks to everyone involved!

The Oakleigh Dragons Trivia Night was a great success with roughly 80 people attending and we all had a fun night. Huge thanks to Justine for organising the Trivia Night and setting everything up. Richard May and Marcus Gorman who run the Trivia Night were brilliant and made the night really enjoyable. Gab Dunn and Meg Allan worked extremely hard behind the bar and it is appreciated by everyone.

Thanks to Justine, Richard, Marcus, Gab and Meg!

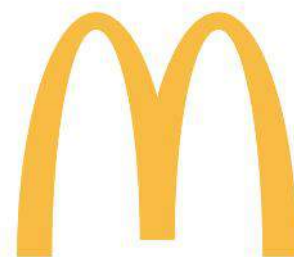
One of the biggest topics going around at Oakleigh Dragons at the minute is kids playing up in the next age group to help another Oakleigh Dragons team with low numbers. The Football Committee have sent an email to the SMJFL regarding the issue, and we are asking for help on the matter. Thanks to everyone in many age groups who have helped a team with low numbers! This is true community spirit and appreciated by all. These players helping other teams is why the Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club has a strong community-based reputation! Thanks to all parents and kids who are helping another team. We will respond to the members once we receive an answer from the SMJFL.

This Sunday, Grub at the Club returns and it's hosted by the U10s and U11s so feel free to call in after your game. The food will be served at 6pm like every week and we aim to have all the Coaches Awards done by 7-30pm.

Go Dragons!

Pat Heverin
President

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2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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Canteen Manager: Yijing Lu
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Joshua Cash U11 Mixed

Having a milestone game?

Send details and photo to Kathy at complianceOYCFC@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Sophie Conn U16 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Rayaan Kochhar U14 Boys (no. 17)





THE ACORN

SEASON 2022

ISSUE 5

ROUND 5 / SUNDAY 15 MAY

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Pat Davies U14 Boys (no. 2)



CONGRATULATIONS

Alex Hastings U16 Boys

100 GAMES



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

U9 MIXED GREEN GARY GARCIA

This week and glad to be down a division we welcomed Mentone at home. We also welcomed new addition and first game player "Connor" to our team. Well done!

For most part of the first half, we showed we could hold our own in Division B. Mentone kicked the first goal early in the first, and although we couldn't put it on the scoreboard, the ball spent the rest of the time in our forward half. We came out where we left off in the second, winning it out of the middle with relentless pressure, speed and accuracy from our mids lead by Thomas, David and Luke and with Ethan giving us a target up front almost booting two in as many minutes, got us back on level terms. The tide was turned on the third however, and Mentone took the ascendancy. Their forward pressure strained our defence and they quickly kicked away. Changes down back in the final quarter helped a little but the damage was already done. This game, more than any other was one you could say "so close but yet so far".

The boys effort was unquestionable and I can see that they're listening to instructions and trying hard to apply it on the ground. We will continue to further work on positioning and skills at training...Go Dragons!!

U9 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

The U9 Yellow came up against St Kilda at home. We had a few kids that were unable to play due to illness, this left us 1 short on the ground and a big challenge in front of us.

St Kilda jumped out of the blocks very quickly and slotted 4 goals in the first quarter, our team seemed to be ball watching which we needed to address.

At quarter time I asked our team for a special effort, to tackle in numbers and put pressure on the ball when we didn't have it. For the remainder of the game our team did exactly that, Archer was under the pack all day and winning the ball for his team setting the example for others to follow.

Zoe battled hard in the ruck and gave our midfield first option for the most of the game. Darwell battled brilliantly using his body in the midfield and kicked long into our forward line.

Our defensive unit was outstanding after quarter time with, at times 2 or 3 of our players tackling the player with the ball. A great effort by the team showing great resilience, led perfectly by our captains Cameron and Eli.

Well done team.

U10 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE

The U10's travelled to Basil Reserve to play our rivals East Malvern this week. We had some famous umpires for the day - with current AFL umpire Ray Chamberlain (Razor Ray) and broadcaster/Journalist Gerard Whately (pictured below) taking control as part of an AFL Umpiring initiative - observation - Razor was very strong on high tackles!

We played some solid football for the first three quarters of the game. Our defence was always under pressure but the boys worked hard to keep us in the game. It was an arm wrestle in the midfield zone with us winning enough ball to create opportunities up front. Our forwards did really well fighting and scrapping for every possession and scoring when they could. We entered the final quarter a goal up and scored the next goal to give us a cushion or so we thought. Malvern scored five in a row to win by three goals.

The kids were very disappointed after the game but I did my best to pick them up. They were tired in the last quarter which led to basic skill errors and concentration levels dropping. It was probably their best performance as a team for the year and they should all be very proud of how they played. Best moment of the day was watching Darcy kicking his first goal for the Oakleigh Dragons - well done Darcy.
Go Dragons!



U11 MIXED DAVID CASH

We started our post grading season with a home game as Princes Highway V East Sandy JFC. Thanks so much to the hard work put in by Pat our hard-working president for marking the ground for our first game anyone has played at that ground this season. The paint was only just dry as we ran onto the ground - great work Pat.

With an illness affected team we once again relied upon our U9 Gregory (little brother of Jim) who keeps impressing us each week he plays with our team, he helped us get to our 14 players. The opposition loaned us a player so we had a 15 v 16 game to start with, until Liam (who was playing really well for us strongly defending our back line) copped a kicked football to the head and spend the remaining 2.5 quarters on the bench recovering. Hope you're feeling better Liam.

Our boys started on fire kicking the first goal of the game with the wind and we were looking and playing quite well, however it turned around on us, the opposition found their rhythm with the wind the next quarter added a number of goals from which we could not pull back.



Our players let their heads drop and got very frustrated with things not going our way, but with some strong words at half time, reminders to be positioning towards each other, competing in the air, getting to the ball first, working hard and running not watching and walking, the third and fourth quarters were better - our football is a work in progress.

Even with the issues we had on the day there were many positives that came from it. We are starting a project to recognise other players positive impacts, not their mistakes. This started at training last Thursday night and will be a strong focus going forward.

During half time the items I spoke about were taken on board with some great examples showing improvement. With Alex Z jumping at the high ball against the opposition's ruckman and getting the ball to the ground and Ryder running hard and overtaking opposition players so he got to the ball first. Ben in only his second game was very solid, I loved the way he backed himself and he keeps improving, getting and moving the ball. Jacob was strong at the ball and worked hard to always get a kick or handball away. Cooper and Jaron were clean with the ball pickups all over the ground, getting the ball to their teammates and moving it forward. Heath standing up with some good marks and big kicks forward and kicking one of our goals. Joshua after running through the 50 game banner was putting strong tackles and kicking to targets. Jimmy was consistent in the backline repelling the opposition a number of times and Luca in the midfield running forward to help and kicking our first goal. Owen was getting to good positions in and under competing for the ball and almost kicked another goal for us, and Rhys was standing tall in the ruck and CHF and marked well.

Although the score line was not great for us, we were competitive and with improvement and full numbers I am sure we can turn the tables on them next time we meet.

U12 GIRLS TONY WARD / DARREN TAYLOR

We played away against Prahran JFC at Packer Park.

We had 19 available players this week, with Sienna, Semira, Kiana, Sophia, Greta and Zoe unavailable. Prahran had 17 girls, so both teams agreed to play with 17 girls on the field, allowing us to have two girls on the interchange bench.

At training on Friday before the game, we attempted some 'game style' exercises to emphasise how we wanted to play the game and to benefit the girl's game awareness and understanding. Before the game, we highlighted some critical aspects: kick to space, run and carry, tackling and pressure, playing in front and consistency of effort and support for your teammates.

There was a pretty strong wind blowing to the pavilion end of Packer Park, and if we won the toss, we were going to kick against the breeze in the first quarter. We lost the toss, and the opposition decided to kick with the wind, so our plan was coming to fruition.

We were confident of doing well, and at the end of the first quarter, we were only 7 points down, so I thought we were in a pretty good position. In the second quarter, kicking with the breeze, we couldn't get our game going, and Prahran played well and didn't allow us too many opportunities. We were only 8 points down at halftime, so well in the game.

I thought we played well in the third quarter, and while we didn't score, we held Prahran, who were kicking with the breeze, to 2 behinds. We were 10 points down at three quarter time and were kicking with the breeze in the last quarter, so I thought we were in with a good chance of victory.

While I thought we had plenty of opportunities in the last quarter, and Misaki kicked our only goal, Prahran ran out the game a little better than us and held on for a tough 11 point victory.

Overall, once again, the effort was there, and there are several areas that we will continue to focus on at training to assist the girls with their understanding of how we want to play going forward.



Some key callouts:

Elaine played a fantastic game repelling many attacks and running riot when moved into the midfield. With Zoe being a late withdrawal, Miette played centre halfback and played very well under a lot of pressure. Misaki and Maddi gave us plenty of drive around the ground, and Camryn came into her own when moved into the ruck. Skye is improving all the time and attacked the football with great vigour.

Next week we come up against a strong South Melbourne Districts side at home, who will present us with a good challenge, which I am sure we will embrace.

I look forward to seeing all the girls at training on Friday - once again, don't forget your mouthguards and helmets (if you wear one)

Final Scores:

Prahran JFC: 2.6.18

Oakleigh Dragons: 1.1.7

Best Players (in no particular order): Elaine, Misaki, Skye, Camryn, Miette, Maddi

Goals: Misaki 1

U12 MIXED GREEN PAUL VAN OOSTEN

Playing our first away game in a month, we were up against Waverley Hawks at Columbia Park. Whilst we knew it was going to be a tough game, the boys seemed switched on and determined to bounce back from last week's loss to St Peters. As always, we spoke before the game about our values, the importance of working hard with and without the ball and controlling the things we can control: work rate, effort and intensity.

Unfortunately we did not start the match the way we would have liked. From the outset our skills weren't to the level we have come to expect as we dropped marks, fumbled ground balls and missed targets with our kicks and handballs. On top of this we were simply outworked by Waverley and, as a result, they got out to a goal lead by quarter time.

The 2nd and 3rd quarters were fairly close contests with both sides having chances to score. For the second week in a row we struggled to find an avenue to goal despite having our fair share of attacking opportunities. Fortunately Waverley also failed to make the most of their opportunities and at 3/4 time we were only down by 3 goals and still well and truly in the game. In many ways, the 4th quarter summed up our overall performance, and indeed our performance over the last two weeks - in both games we came up against sides that were hungrier, more desperate and harder working than us which is disappointing as these were some of our strengths over the first three weeks of the season.

Whilst the result did not go the way we would have liked, it is important that the boys recognise and understand where exactly we are falling short and what we need to do to address this. We are a good team that is capable of competing with any team in our division however, in order to do this, we need to play our best footy more regularly which means being team oriented, hard-working, committed and desperate. When we get these things right the rest will follow.

	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4
Oakleigh	0.1.	0.1.	0.2.	0.2
Waverley	1.3.	3.3.	3.4.	4.7



U12 MIXED YELLOW TIM MORELAND

Today we hosted Mordi-Brae at Scammell in one of the early games and again we relied on our second half performance to put the foot down, coming away winners 67 to 24. There was a nice breeze heading down the southern end of the ground so we needed to play smart with and against it, to which, for the most part, we did today.

We started with 17 players whilst Mordi had 23, so we had one player on loan each quarter to balance the sheet out. We're really liking the way the lads are improving each week as a team and we are encouraged by the way we're trying to play fast footy. Ethan, Jethro and Max keep steadying the defence week in week out. We even spun them forward to provide options as well. Eamon continues to show us signs of confidence and ball winning from the wings and Cam was a great contributor on his wing all day. Robbie and Ollie swapped forward and back and looked dangerous, whilst Archie provides consistent pressure all game.

Troy is improving each week and I thought his leading and presenting forward was excellent. He really set up some forward options for us today. Fionn is a rock solid back but showed us some flexibility when we put him on the wing and kicked a very nice last quarter goal.

Darcy R is Mr Consistent and I love the way he just follows instructions in order to get better. We saw this again today and he's getting into perfect positions. Well done Darcy. Ajay went back and forward and is a handy addition to our team whilst Cooper always finds himself in the middle of things. Cooper's on ball positioning is getting smarted week by week and he's very good to watch.

Andrew and Paul found plenty of the footy and their stoppage clearance propelled us forward many times. Well done gents! Darcy M took loads of contested marks and used both sides of his body to great affect kicking 3 goals whilst Harland was tireless in the Ruck and read the play fantastically, also kicking 3 goals.

There's some really good signs from the team each week - so we're proud to see them improving individually and together as a team. We'll continue to try and improve so when we get challenged we can sustain our game style for longer.

Again thanks to all the helpers and families for making it such a fun team to be part of... See everyone next week!



Go Dragons

U13 MIXED ANDREW GREEN

After a narrow loss last week, the under 13's were playing at home against Hampton Rovers who had come down from Division 2. While it was a sunny autumn morning there was stiff breeze blowing down the ground providing a good 4 goal advantage. Hampton managed to get the jump on the boys and score a few quick first quarter goals and the boys were forced to wake up and start playing.

The second quarter, we were kicking with the breeze and managed a few good scoring shots and the game was on. Kicking against the wind in the 3rd quarter, we managed to hold Hampton from running away with the game and so leading into the final quarter we were still within winning opportunity. However the boys were unable to capitalise on the opportunities that presented to score a win.

The final score was a low scoring affair, and we went down 1.7 -13 to 4.1 -25.



The key take away from the game is working on winning the ball, our ground balls, marking and scoring goals all under pressure.

With the team now playing in a competitive division the honeymoon is over and I look forward to the boys working together as a team and taking on the next challenge.

U14 MIXED GLENN THOMSON

Oakleigh JFC 5.8.38
Waverley Park Hawks 4.4.28

Goals: H.Cooper, M.Morton, O. McCulloch, E.Kingsley, O.Thomson

Today we played at home against a team we had already played in the grading games and beaten by one point, so we knew we would be in for a fight! The boys jumped straight out of the box showing real strength in the contest winning the ball forward. Unfortunately, we didn't get the reward on the scoreboard kicking into the wind we managed 5 points to 0. The game was a tight contest all day with Waverley hitting the lead halfway through the last quarter before our boys dug deep to score two late goals to steal the win. I would like to congratulate Pat Davies and Rayaah Kochhar on playing 50 games for the Dragons. You're both great contributors and respected team members. Both boys are a pleasure to coach!

Again, I would like to thank U13 boys Nathan Rekas, Josh and Jack Seabrook, Elliott Sturrock, Hamish Cooper and Oscar McCulloch. All of you acquitted yourselves well.

U15 BOYS ZAC BARRETT & MASON ANSELL

After a narrow loss the week before, the U15 boys were excited to get back on the winners list against Brighton Beach in round 5. Away from home, and hampered by injury and illness - the boys arrived more switched on and ready than ever before.

Kicking against a strong breeze in the first quarter, the Dragons fell behind by a couple of goals - but showed they were more than up to the task of pegging back the margin.

The second quarter saw a flurry of Oakleigh goals, amid sustained forward pressure and great defensive endeavour - they booted 6 unanswered goals to take hold of the game.

After the long break, and again kicking into the breeze - the Dragons continued their assault, conceding a few goals but managing to change the tide late in the third by kicking two quick goals.

The match was delicately poised, but the Dragons weren't sated by their narrow lead. Come the final term, the boys resumed their assault on goal - pulling away to a four goal lead early in the 4th quarter. Brighton Beach didn't lay down, but our rock solid backline was up to the task, ensuring the scoreline didn't change too drastically.

Ultimately, the Dragons were victorious - a great team effort would be an understatement, with every player on the field not only playing, but excelling in their role all day. Could not be prouder of how they conducted themselves as a team - a victory to savour!



U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 1-2-8 East Malvern 0-2-2

As the score line suggests today's game was played with an intense pressure from both teams. It was a real gridlock mainly played through the middle of the ground. Like previous weeks our backline kept on repelling the opposition's forward entries.

In her new role as a sweeper off the backline, Sienna had the ball on a string and played her best game of the year. Chooty also had her best game of the year and finally came off in the last quarter with nothing left in the tank. As well as kicking our only goal Chelsea again had a great impact on the game. Chanel regained her 2021 form and muscled her way into the game all day. I started Lauren at CHF and she rewarded us with her aerial dominance, unfortunately her shot on goal fell agonisingly short.

A huge congratulations to Sophie who in her 50th game also had an impact as she played in various positions all day. However it was in the last quarter that I was most proud of the team as a WHOLE. They showed me, and the very excited parents cheering on, that this group are a classy bunch with a never give up attitude. Very, very proud ladies!!

U16 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: Prahran / Murrumbeena Home Game:

Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 9 Goals

Scammell Reserve was looking for a picture and we were facing Prahran for the second time in 5 weeks, our first meeting we won by 3 goals. Our team continues to be ravaged by injuries and we had a further four out from last week to make the injury list 8 out of 23. The positive news is we will expect at least three boys back this week and we all look forward to the exciting time when we have everyone on the park. We had an important milestone this week with Alex Hasting playing his 100th game. Alex is a key member of this team, his improvement and work ethic over the last few seasons has been a real credit to himself, well done Alex. He is a pleasure to coach and always willing to put in for the team.

Due to the injuries, we sent out an SOS and 2 under 14's stepped up and played against the bigger boys. Olly and Mitch did an amazing job, both have a very bright futures with the Dragons. We started the game with a goal straight out of the centre and through the big sticks, things were looking good. Our next goal came in the 3rd quarter while Prahran got on top with their quick ball movement and run and carry. At half time it was 8 goals to 1. The second half we put the breaks on and scored 4 goals to 6. We won the last quarter which was a fantastic effort. To the guy's credit they never gave up and were very competitive in the second half, we know we are undermanned, but we also know that we will have the team back together soon and we will scare a few of these sides in the second half of the year. The team is developing and at times we moved the ball very well and were able to provide very good pressure. As a coaching group we were super pleased with the guys under the circumstances. It would have been easy to give up in the second half and get run over, this group are a proud group and didn't let that happen.

Special mentions from the game:

- Aden at full back, and the rest of the backline, have had a busy couple of weeks but they keep doing an amazing job. Aden is attacking from the last line and doesn't get beaten. Keep up the good work.
- Joey was all over the ground and played well again, his run off half back was terrific.
- Bailey was back for his first game for the year after an illness. It was great to have him back and he played with energy and vigour. Watch this player when he is fit and ready to go!
- Lachie, Oscar, Elliot, and Sammy I all had good games and played in different positions as the situations changed.
- James Mac had a game that showed his real development, he was sore but was able to work as hard as he could for the team for the entire game.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2022

ISSUE 5

ROUND 5 / SUNDAY 15 MAY

- A special mention must go to Olly and Mitch. Firstly, Mitch placed a tackled on one of their bigger players and was hanging on bravely when he was swinging in the air when the player stood up. He was outsized but was willing to have a go. Olly showed some great signs for a player of his age, he attacks the ball and runs hard both ways. Thanks both of you.

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



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.

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



TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday 13th was the lucky date for the Trivia Night! This fantastic night was well attended and everyone had a blast. In addition to a great selection of questions over the course of the evening, a reverse raffle and other fun games were held. Thank you to everyone who helped make this night a success.



Congratulations to the winners of the night 'Sweet 16' from the U16 Girls team.



Congratulations to Greta Trent, taking out the \$500 prize for the reverse raffle! An excited Justine Leopold announced the winner.



Thanks once again to our amazing host, ex-Committee Member and current sponsor from Kwik Kopy Braeside, Richard May.





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 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	

