



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Winter arrived early and on Sunday there were still remnants of hail on the ground at Scammell and Princes Highway early in morning.

It was a big weekend at the Club, hosting 10 home games - 5 at Princes Hwy and 5 at Scammell. Thanks to everyone who helped open up, set-up and pack-up both grounds.

I did get around to both grounds at various times and watched 5 full games - all were very engaging football. My highlight for the round was the U12 Girls who battled through the ground conditions at Princes Highway after already having 4 matches on it before them. Conditions that probably needed flippers and snorkels in some places. Sienna Bernardo attended their training session on Friday night, which I am sure was invaluable for the team and gave them the inspiration and drive to bring home their first win of the season. Thanks Sienna and well done to the whole U12 team.

Congratulations Chanel Di Rienzo for the U16 Girls ANZAC Medal. Well deserved.

A fantastic spread put on by the U9's teams at Grub. Thanks to all involved on another great night.

This Friday night, 12 May, there are two back to back matches under lights. U16 Girls at 6:00pm followed up by the U18 Girls at 7:40pm. If you are around and can get down, please do so to cheer them on and help congratulate the players celebrating their 50 Games.

To all the Mum's out there I hope you all have a wonderful Mother's Day. Thank you for everything you do.

Hope to see you around the grounds for Round 4, have a safe one.

Brodie Phillips
President

GO DRAGONS

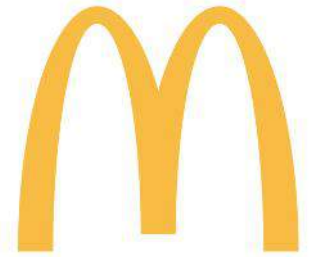
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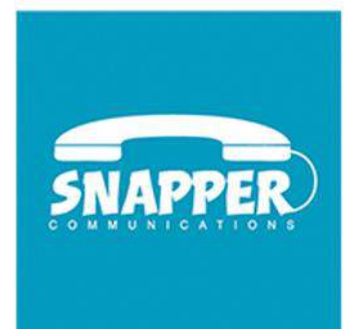
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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

Tyrone Interrigi, U16 Boys

100 GAMES



CONGRATULATIONS

Isaac Brown, 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





Oakleigh Rotary Market

Come on down every
Sunday 8am - 1pm



HUGE RANGE OF WARES

- Fruit, vegetables & plants
- Clothing & books
- Tools & hardware
- Preowned treasures

...AND MUCH MORE!!



Corner of Hanover and
Atherton Streets





2023
SIR JOHN MONASH
AWARDS
10th Anniversary



Nominate Your Monash Hero

Do you know someone who volunteers their skills and time to your local sports group and deserves an award?

Council is calling for nominations for the 'Active Monash' category, which recognises the work of individuals in sports clubs or groups in Monash.

If you know of someone who deserves recognition, to nominate and for more info:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/awards or call 9518 3619.

Nominations close Sunday 11 June.





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Our boys went at it undermanned again. It turned out to be a tough day as St Bede's got off to a hot start courtesy of a strong breeze.

We battled manfully all day and were a tough team to play against which is something we want to start priding ourselves on.

Not our day but still so much to take out of the contest and into next week.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

The U9s came up against Prahran at Princes Highway Reserve this week in wet and windy conditions. It was the best performance for our team all year with many of the things we have been focusing on being implemented through the game.

The result didn't go our way, however the style of play and endeavour shown to bring more pressure, stay focused throughout the game and work for each other was a positive improvement from the prior weeks.

Special mention to Koby who just keeps on improving each week, in wet conditions at times it looked like he was playing with a dry footy and was able to win the ball in contest and explode forward with run and long penetrating kicks. It was also great to see Ari, who has just started playing footy, kick a great goal on the run for the team, the celebration afterwards was equally as good and really lifted the rest of his teammates up.

Training is paying off but there is still lots of room for improvement which we will all work on together. See you all on Wednesday. Go Dragons!

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a cold and fresh morning we faced the East Brighton Vampires at Moorabbin.

A special mention to Tyler on his first game with the club and thanks to Ollie from the Under 9s for helping us out in the first half.

The boys played well for most of the game and it was great to see Ben score his first goal.

Unfortunately the result didn't go our way but there has been definite improvement over the past few weeks.

Well done to Thomas E, Archer, Ethan, Thomas M and Max M on putting in solid performances. Deon provided plenty of run and speed all day.

There was great courage shown from our captain for the day David for coming back on the ground after being injured. Great commitment from such a determined player.

We are nearly there and results will go our way sooner rather than later if we continue to try our best.



U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

A tough day in the office for our team against Port Colts in water logged conditions at Princes Highway reserve.

The Colts came out firing kicking four early goals which put us on the back foot but credit to our group they kept fighting throughout the match to break even for the remainder of the contest.

Some highlights:

- Cameron was rock solid in defence, intercepting numerous attacks and using the ball well. Best game he's played for the Dragons!
- Blake read the play beautifully, sweeping up many loose balls and driving into attack. His desire to win the footy sets a great example for the team.
- Hamish's first game for the season was really strong, winning numerous contested balls and his game was likened to Joel Selwood he was so ferocious at the ball!
- A great job by our captains Eli and Hugh (pictured), they were great leaders in very tough conditions!



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We took on a strong outfit in the Dingley Dingoes at their home ground today.

We played the Dingoes at the same venue for our practice match a month back when they touched us up, so we were looking for improvement on that...and boy did we get it!

Co-Captains today were Cameron and Ambrose both of whom played some of their best footy yet.

Ambrose was everywhere and Cam was also burrowing in and using his body to tackle and shepherd for this team mates which helped inspire them to do the same. Cam was also quick to fly the flag when one of his teammates was attracting a lot of attention from the opposition!

All the boys were rotated through the ground as usual and they started to get a feel for what they need to do in each position which was great to see.

Terrell played his first game for us and first game of footy ever and gave us great contest. Speaking of contest, Big Dave, Finn, Jonah and Alex were cracking. Harrison, Paul and Jonah also took some great marks and Finley got plenty of the footy on the wing.

There were many more highlights with Finn and Harrison doing a "give and get" down the flank. Some great chase down tackles by Ambrose, Alex and Finn and we also had Masaki racing around the wings driving us forward. Highlight of the day was Jay's mark and first goal - first of many no doubt.

Unfortunately they were just a bit too skilful for us on the day but gee we pushed them all the way. The Dingley coach also mentioned how impressed he was with our boys endeavour and was worried we'd run over them but it wasn't to be.

Well done Dragons! You made us all proud with your effort today.



U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

As the club song says “in any weather you will see us with a grin” and those words epitomised our attitude on a cold wet Sunday at Princess Highway against Bentleigh.

Our girls went out there in the mud and pools of water and attacked the footy without fear and got down and dirty under the packs to win the ball.

We did most of the attacking in first quarter, Sophia dominating in the ruck while Miette, Ruby, Olivia and Skye won plenty of the ball through the middle and kept pumping the ball down in our forward line for Lavinia, Tyra, Victoria and Kiana to get to work and get us some score board pressure.

It was Miette that burst through the midfield stoppage and kicked the opening and very important goal for us.

Bentleigh had the wind in the second term and our backline stood tall. Semira marking and gathering anything near her, booting the ball clear while Bonnie wrapped up anyone that tried to get the ball past her. Greta and Stella complimented the great wall of Semira and Bonnie by picking up any loose balls and streaming out of our backline. It was a great team performance with our midfield helping our backline to keep Bentleigh scoreless for 3 quarters.

Then it got tight..... Bentleigh had the wind again in the last and got an early goal and that’s when our girls showed their courage, determination and teamwork. The girls willed themselves to each contest, out-sprinting the opposition to loose balls, chasing down and tackling anytime our opponents looked like they were away. Their hard work and persistence to the very last second paved the way to our first win of the season 1-3-9 to 1-1-7.

U13 MIXED GREEN DAVID CASH

Winter has come and got us this week - players arrived to find hail still laying on the ground in places and the cold, wet conditions were present until about half time, then the sun came out and the day seemed to get better.

We played Bentleigh this week. The pre-game talk focused on wet weather football, moving the ball forward at every opportunity and keeping the pressure on the opposition. Our boys came out to play and at the first bounce took the opportunity, they attacked the ball and got it moving forward straight away, and after a short period had the first score on the board, a single point, which was the leading margin at quarter time.

The second quarter was also an arm wrestle with no one making it easy for anyone else, but our persistence had us add 2 more points to one to double our lead at the big break.

One point each in the third quarter and at this break our boys were reminded that “If the worst happened and the opposition got a goal, we needed to keep our heads up and get it back” - well there was a goal kicked, but it was a great reward for the hard work our boys had been doing all morning, and then we followed that goal up with another one. Overall, I could not be prouder of every single player in our team, they play hard and got the well-deserved reward.

Thank you so much to the U9 parents that put on a fantastic spread this week, it was fantastic and has set the benchmark very high for other teams to follow throughout the season.



U13 MIXED YELLOW TIM MORELAND

Well it was cold but didn't rain as we played Bently Highett at Princes Highway today. After last weeks' 100+ point win we came back to earth with an 8 point loss in a scrappy affair in wet conditions. Late withdrawals to Kalaeb, Curtis, Will, Tom and Archie (injury/illness) reduced us to 16 players so we were pleased about how we stayed in the game for as long as we did.

We couldn't get any system going today and fell down on our defensive side of our game too many times. We'll get to work and do some things at training which will help us get a little more consistent in this area. I won't go through everyone today but we thought James and Paul worked hard down back and steadied the ship on several occasions. Darcy R competed hard whilst Aiden and Oscar popped up in the last quarter a few times with added pressure. Tyler got to several contests across the day and kept working whilst Darcy M managed to kick 3 goals when forward. Harland dominated the ruck duals and kept running across the ground to assist his team mates all day, well done.

Plenty to improve on so let's get the injuries sorted, get to training and work hard on improving into next week. 🐉

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Today we played East Malvern at Stanley Grose Reserve. A quintessential 4 seasons in one day Melbourne Sunday! The conditions were conducive to ground level football and we implored the girls to move the ball forward at all costs, especially off the ground. The first quarter had both Coaches looking at each other, thinking "What in the world?!" The girls flew out of the blocks and put through 3 goals to zip in quick time.

Ironically at training during the week, we largely concentrated on working the ball out from the kick out. Fortunately this wasn't a major concern as our hard working mids and wingers constantly kept putting the ball forward, where we enjoyed watching multiple individual and first time goal scorers.

But it was the birthday girl Zoe who feasted on the ball, staying in our forward line, and snagging 3 goals on her birthday! The goals continued in each quarter, the tackling was immense, the much emphasised teamwork was on display for the whole game, but for us Coaches, seeing the constant improvement in this group was the most pleasing part.

9.11.65 v 0.1.1 was the scoreline, but it was the 1pt that pleased us the most, with the backline and mids all helping out to prevent scoring and more importantly, get it down to the other end.





Notables: Tash – a super, super game! Ran all day, no fuss, no flair - led from the front. Lucia - a bull in the pack, won a heap of her own kicks, constantly pushed us forward and got her first goal. Elaine - absolutely solid in defence, repelled many forward plays from the opposition, definitely played like a true Captain. Sienna - a tireless game from this onballer - strong tackling, tenacious around the ball, provided plenty of run and talk.

Goals: Zoe 3, Serana, Tessy, Gia, Lucia, Lucy, Milly B.

U14 MIXED **MARCUS SPENCER**

We played against: East Brighton Vampires At: Scammell Reserve

One of the results of being undefeated is that opposition teams start to plan how they can curtail your strengths. This was the case on the weekend when our opponents decided that the best way to stop Oakleigh winning was to play two or three players on our leading goal kicker Ari.

While it didn't stop us winning, it did expose the fact that we did not have a plan B to implement when our opponents decided to flood back in defence. It also showed that we need to be able to deal with these sorts of tactics and not let ourselves get frustrated.

In the game itself, while it was scrappy, we dominated general play. Campbell played particularly well in the midfield and was very clean with the ball when others were struggling in the wet conditions. Despite being double and triple teamed, Ari still managed to have a lot of shots on goal but was a little off target and didn't get the rewards he deserved.

I was really pleased with the continued development of our players. Drew, Patrik, Ayden and James all showed the benefits of the work they are putting in to improve, with James's goal being a highlight for the team.

Our discipline fell away a bit in the second half and several players started speaking to the umpire in a way that is never acceptable. This is the second week in a row that players have let their emotions take control and the outcome has been receiving 25m penalties resulting in goals to the opposition. We will speak to the whole group about that this week to ensure the players are clear on our behavioural expectations.

On the bright side, we are three from three and despite some lapses we are playing good football. Looking forward to our final grading game this week and then getting into the real season.



U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

We headed over to E.E. Gunn reserve to face off against Ormond on a crisp Sunday afternoon.

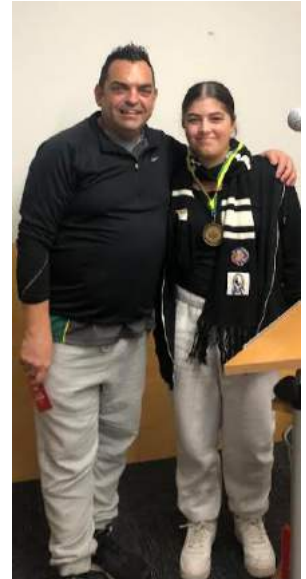
Having beaten Ormond in a preliminary final last year, I reminded our girls that they would come out with a vengeance. Kicking against the wind we worked the ball forward where Julia was rewarded for a bone crunching tackle. The ball got out to Brianna who in only her second game perfectly passed it in onto our ever reliant CHF Gracie who slotted it from 40 out, the excitement filtered through the team and shivering crowd. We had our mojo back!

Much to Ormond's credit the rest of the game was a real arm wrestle. We ended up winning 9-3 but it was the never give up attitude that impressed me again, everyone played their part.

- Sienna and Emily - racked up plenty of the ball.
- Chanel, Eva, Harriet, Brianna, Fiona and Nicole - won the contested ball all day.
- Bonnie, Gracie, Julia and Sophie were swapped around and did their jobs in every position.
- Natalie and Jessica repelled all of Ormond's forward entries.
- Charlotte and Taylor provided great forward pressure.
- And Ruby ran her heart out to get to all the ruck contests.

Well done everyone!

Congratulations again to Chanel for receiving the ANZAC medal (pictured) – we had a bye in the first round, so her medal was presented at Grub on Sunday.



U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

After a heavy loss in round one, then a bye in round two - the under 16 boys were excited to get themselves back on to the winners list, and at home no less.

Mordi Brae were the task, and with near perfect conditions (for playing not spectating) the game began.

It was clear rather quickly that the opposition were well drilled and more than up to the task, skipping out to a lead of multiple goals in the opening minutes. A spirited last 5-10 minutes of the quarter saw the Dragons wrestle back some of the momentum.

Unfortunately, the quarter time break did little to change the flow of the game, with Mordi Brae increasing their lead substantially. In the shadows of half time - again the Dragons rallied, taking up the fight in the dying of stages of the half, proving that they were no walkovers.

Refreshed after a break, and with new found vigour - the second half began. The first few minutes were a real struggle for both teams, contested football was the order of the day - yet Mordi Brae turned the tide in their favour, and were able to once more increase their lead going into the final quarter.

With a win off the cards - the Dragons had to find something of their own to salvage from the game, and for that last 20 minutes - they dug in, much to the pleasure of the onlookers. They worked tirelessly and applied themselves like good teams do, never once dropping their heads or turning on one another.



Despite the loss, it was great to see Isaac Brown and Tyrone Interrigi both celebrate their 100 game milestones. Well done boys - 100 games is no small feat at whatever age or level of football to play! Here's hoping the next 100 are fruitful.

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: AJAX Home Game

Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 19

This was the top of the table clash with both teams undefeated so far this season. Winter had come early with the weather turning nasty with lots of rain and wind over the previous day. Our home ground, Scammell Reserve, had held up extremely well, ready for the 3.30pm game. It was great to welcome back Goodie and Alex H from injury.

From the first bounce we could tell it was going to be a competitive game. The wind was going to the North Road end, and we kicked that way to begin the game. We kicked 3 for the term and to AJAX's credit they got to the lead right on the siren. Their ability to score against the wind was the difference in the end. With the wind in the second quarter, they got away a bit and were 23 points up at half time, our goal was to give ourselves a chance at three-quarter time - the boys delivered, and we were in with a show. The conditions had got heavier and their bigger bodies around the ball were having an impact. The last quarter was a real tight contest and they ended up on top at the end of the day.

Good effort by our boys - our thought and our ability to play our game was very pleasing, unfortunately our execution wasn't at our best and this hurt at times. I think the conditions suited the opposition and it will be good to test ourselves against them again.

Special mentions from the game:

- The crowd favourite - Joey C, had a great game off half back, his marking was a highlight. The back six is becoming a tight unit and playing well.
- Our on-ball brigade was again working well against some talented players. Oscar got plenty of it again, Stevie and Tommy crashed in all day and Pete and Specky used it well. Jimmy again gave first use and had a good game.
- After an incident in the last quarter, where one of our players was injured, I would like to thank and commend the team for their disciplined approach for the remainder of the game. We are a team who will always play hard but fair. The club is proud of how you conducted yourselves.
- It was a good competitive game where we shared the ball and ran together, we will work on our skill execution and be better for it.

See all the players at training his week. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Go Dragons!

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

After overnight rain and hail, we ended up having a clear day for footy at Scammell as we took on South Melbourne Swans. The girls looked confident after last week's game and it was pleasing to see some green and yellow socks pulled up to the knees.

A really solid first quarter saw the game evenly poised with no goals scored. The Swans got 2 goals in the second quarter to our 2 points. We dominated the third quarter and scored 1-3, but a late goal to the visitors saw them 11 points up at three quarter time. The Swans got 6 behinds in the last quarter and kept us goalless. The final result was 1-5:11 to 3-10:28.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 3

ROUND 3 / SUNDAY 7 MAY

It was another really good team effort. Our backline was solid with Gecko and Livvy holding their opponents, Matisse using the ball well and Lily F attacking the ball and driving us forward. A great piece of play from a kick saw the ball move cleanly from one end to the other Livvy → Gecko → Lily G → Olivia R. Great to watch.

Daisy dominated the ruck and Freya, Chooty and Clem provided lots of run. Our Forwards provided great pressure when the ball was in the area - Ayla and Ella were tackling and bumping and Lauren was pushing players out of the way.

Gisselle ran all day and was so puffed at one point couldn't bounce the ball down with enough force for it to come back up to her!

A really good game that was contested right until the end.



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



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
23-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U16 Boys
30-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		
7-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		U9 Mixed
14-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
21-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	National Volunteer Week, 15-21 May	Hosted by Special Guest
28-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		
4-Jun	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		U10 & U11 Mixed
11-Jun	No Games / Interleague Carnival				King's Birthday	
18-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U12 & U14 Girls
25-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	School Holidays	
2-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
9-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
16-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U16 & U18 Girls
23-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
30-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Mixed
6-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
13-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		U13 Mixed
20-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		U18 Boys
27-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
3-Sep			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Father's Day	
10-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC	PRESENTATION DAY (School holidays commence 16/09)					

