



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

What a difference a week makes to the Melbourne weather! We were bathed in sunshine from start to finish on Sunday and it couldn't have been a better day to celebrate all our Mums in Dragonland, you all do an amazing job. I hope you all had a special day.

Our round 4 kicked off with the U16 and U18 girls double header on Friday night under lights. Congrats to Sienna B and Jessica H for their 50 game milestone! It was great to see a couple of the U16 girls back it up with another run with the U18's in back to back matches. Well done to both teams and thanks to everyone who came down to cheer them on. This was followed up by 7 big games at Scammell on Sunday. Our U13 Mixed Div 5 team had the very special experience of having their match officiated by an AFL Umpire (Nic McGinness) at Elwood Park as part of Community Umpiring Week.

This week (15-21 May) is National Volunteer Week, so for those volunteers that are unable to make it to this week's Grub, I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to you. Those that can make it, we have a little celebration planned so hoping you come and enjoy the night. You should all be proud of yourselves and the time and effort that you put into football, every week.

Our first 4 grading rounds are done and the season seems to be flying by. As I type this David Cash is representing the Club at the SMJFL Grading Committee and I'm sure we'll all be looking very closely as to where our teams end up for the rest of the season. I am sure that each and every player has given it their all to get this far. So keep on persevering, chin up and play your best football.

Grub is on this Sunday, 21 May, and I hope to see all our volunteers there.

Brodie Phillips

President

GO DRAGONS

2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

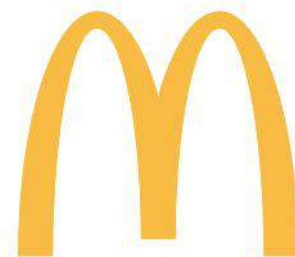
President: Brodie Phillips
Vice President: David Cash
Secretary: Caz Hayes
Treasurer: Volker Heinze
Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Kathy McGeoch
Property Officer: Chris Goodman
Canteen Manager: Vacant
Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
Social Media: Vacant

Football Operations Manager: David Cash
Team Manager Coordinator: Jude Foster
First Aid Coordinator: Lindsay Armatas
Child Safety Officers: Sonya Moreland / Andrew Allan
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Youth): John McLaughlin
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Tim Moreland
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
Incident Coordinator: Sonya Moreland
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:

Annelise Scott
Justin Scott
Sonya Moreland

2023 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
CHADSTONE**



woodards



BRAESIDE



CONTACT DETAILS Brodie Phillips Ph: 0499 999 863 secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com www.oakleighdragons.org.au

FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Sienna Bernardo, U16 Girls

Having a milestone game?

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



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Jessica Hopgood, U16 Girls

Having a milestone game?

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



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like in the next Acorn,
please email them with a description to Kathy at complianceOYCFC@gmail.com





THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 4

ROUND 4 / SUNDAY 14 MAY

Aweosome TRAINING TOPS

\$40

ON SALE AT SCAMMELL RESERVE

- Wednesday - 4.30-6.30pm
- Thursday - 4.30-6.30pm
- Sunday - from 5.30pm at Grub at the Club



**CAN ALSO BE
PERSONALISED
AT**

www.twobrothersaustralia.com.au



**WANT TO ADD
NAMES TO YOUR
SPORTS GEAR?**



PERSONALISED SPORTS BAGS & TOPS

Add your name to your training tops, hoodies and bags.

**FROM
\$10**



- Colours to match club colours
- Delivery and collection available from Scammell Reserve
- 2-3 business day turnaround
- Other clubs/sports as well

Contact Person:
Suzi Ikin (U10 Mixed Green)

Order at:
www.twobrothersaustralia.com.au

**ORDER ONLINE & WE WILL CONTACT
YOU TO CONFIRM DETAILS**

 twobrothersaust@internode.on.net

 0417 319 280

 www.twobrothersaustralia.com.au

COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Our boys took on Dingley this weekend and put together their best four quarter performance yet.

We work on three principles of pressure, togetherness and enjoyment and the lads combined all three on countless occasions on the day.

Our forwards looked dangerous all day as our mids won contest after contest and our backs held firm anytime they were asked.

The ability of our boys to move the ball is stellar and they link up incredibly well for their age.

Awesome to see constant improvement.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

On Sunday, the last of the grading games, we were up against another tough opponent in the Hampton Rovers. The result didn't go our way however I was proud of the effort and improvement shown across aspects we have been working on as a team.

The team was led superbly by Lachy who kept cracking in all day in the midfield. Special mentions also to Thien and Koby for their relentless attack on the ball all day.

As the game went on, we played some of the best team football we have all year which paid off on the scoreboard in the final term with Koby being moved forward and kicking two great goals matching Hampton's efforts for the quarter. Some real momentum to be able to take forward and I am confident that results will go our way sooner rather than later with the improvement we are seeing each week.

I hope all the Mum's had a great Mother's Day and enjoyed watching their son's game this week.





U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN



On a beautiful day for Mother's day and football, we faced Ormond at Scammell Reserve.

Off to a slow start we played well after quarter time. Even though the result didn't go our way, the boys tried their best and the 3rd quarter was the best for the year so far.

A special mention to Harvey on his first game and Greg for scoring his first goal. Well done to Archer, Greg, Ethan, Thommy E and Max M for putting in solid performances.

Max M and Ethan displayed a great passage of play on the half back line and more of that from everyone will see the team perform even better.

The team is improving every week and results will come our way very soon.

U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

We came up against the best side in our division today, Hampton, on a beautiful sunny morning at Scammell. I spoke to the team before the game and asked for pressure on the opposition, a tackle hard mantra so as to impact the scoring opportunities.

The boys and girls did exactly what I asked, Luke dominated on the last line of defence showing exquisite kicking skill all game. Eli played his best game for the club and tackled hard all game. We didn't get up for the win but our intent was exceptional and every single player should be proud of themselves.



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Sandringham at Scammell on what was a beautiful day for our final grading game on Mother's Day.

Co-Captains were Leo and Harrison Cook both of whom played strong games. Leo in particular really lifted and came out of his shell and got involved with some tackling and chasing. He had his best game in his short time with us at Oakleigh which was great to see and I know he'll have more confidence in his game going forward.

Another highlight of the day was the run and dash of Theodore "Teddy" Konstantinidis. We'll have to keep an eye on Teddy as he loves to back his pace and I think he'll provide plenty of highlights as the season progresses.

Speaking of pace, Cam Heinze showed what he can do with a 50m chase on an opponent that most would have given up on. Not Cam though, he put his head down and bolted! The pressure he put on saved a goal and inspired the boys to do more of the same. Alex also battled away applying pressure and stopped the opposition scoring on multiple occasions.

Unfortunately, the opposition was too strong once again and got the jump on us in the first quarter which had the boys on the back foot. We tried to fight back but hit the post with consecutive shots on goal before the opposition scored again and that took the wind out of our sails a bit.

Finn did a power of work trying to lift the boys and get us back into the game but Sandringham had too many answers across the ground.

Now that the grading matches are behind us, we should find ourselves in a division more suited to where we are at. It's important to remember we've started the season with 2 experienced players (Karlos and Spyros) out injured and have 5 boys in our side who haven't played footy before so there is much to learn. The great news is they're all top kids and eager to learn and improve so we're set for a fun and exciting season ahead.

Go Dragons!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

On a perfect day for footy our girls again showed their love and enthusiasm to compete.

Playing against the Port Melbourne Colts who beat us by 5 goals and kept us goalless in the first round we knew it would be a challenge.

Port were kicking with the wind in the first quarter and our ever reliable backline of Semira, Bonnie, Greta and Stella only kept them to one goal.

Sophia in the ruck again fought hard to give us first chance with the ball and our midfield of Skye, Ruby, Jess and Olivia worked hard to support our defence. Stella continues to excite with her blistering runs out of our backline.

The second quarter saw us get plenty of the ball but the standout was a massive, I mean massive tackle by Greta which stopped a certain goal and from there we carried the ball down the wing for Miette to finish off the teams hard work with a goal. Half time we were only a goal down.

Fighting hard into the wind Lavinia, Victoria and Kiana locked the ball in our forward line, creating many chances but couldn't get the ball to bounce the right way.

It was a physical match and we started the 4th quarter with sore girls on the field and no interchange but the girls didn't slow down and willed themselves on. Unfortunately we couldn't chase down the lead and went down 1-1-7 to 4-1-25.



U13 MIXED GREEN DAVID CASH

Hope everyone had a great Mother's Day – what great weather for football as well.

We were almost on the beach with no wind to speak of and once the dew dried and the fog lifted, I don't think we could have had a better day for football.

We got caught on the hop a little, maybe a few boys hadn't quite woken up when the game started, the St Kilda/Port Melbourne team jumped away from us in the first quarter with a 25 to nil score, but we regrouped and fought out the remaining 3 quarters with them only adding a further 27 points to our 19 points.

Unfortunately, we had a few players unavailable and played with 17 players with the opposition matching us on the field which was very good of them.

Hugo is playing very well for his third game of football, Heath was strong and at times unstoppable kicking our 2 goals, Liam, Riley, and Jaron continued their good form attacking the ball at every opportunity. Ryder ran hard all day and got plenty of the ball, Rhys and Caleb in the ruck tried hard all day against a taller opponent and won their share of the ruck contests, then when Dion went into the Ruck in the last quarter, he out-muscled their ruckman and won his share of the contests.

Overall good for three quarters, and not so good for one quarter, let's find that intensity and attack on the ball, that every player showed in Round 3.

Looking forward to seeing the missing players back fit and healthy soon and watching our return to form next weekend we set the bar at a level, and we can and should strive to keep lifting the bar each week. Go Dragons.

U13 MIXED YELLOW TIM MORELAND

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mums at the Dragons. We really appreciate all the things you do for the kids from driving around everywhere to washing muddy gear after a game. Hope you had a great day and some quality time spent with the family.


Another small loss (10 points) against St Kilda City today which was disappointing after leading most of the day. To allow them to kick 2 easy goals in the last 3 min shows we need to continue to stay switched on and defend hard when we need to. We'll again be working on this at training this week.

It would be nice to have a healthy list after we lost Darcy M, Curtis and Will before the game due to injury. This meant we had no interchange to give the lads some respite during the game. Charlie and Harrison tried hard in defence whilst Liam and Archie battled it out in our forward line. Troy looks comfortable when he leads up at the ball and James just locks down our opponents forwards whilst providing voice and leadership across the ground.

Darcy R, Cam and Oscar worked across the ground and found themselves amongst several stoppage plays. Cooper continues to run hard whilst Johnny seems to be getting better each week by finding himself amongst several contests. Tommy was proppy on his leg today so we hope to get that injury right sooner rather than later. Kaeleb showed his strength up forward and kicked 2 crucial goals putting us in a good position.

Paul contested well in the air and held off several attacks, Aiden looked handy switching from back to forward and used his smarts well, whilst Harland's attacks from centre clearances were good to watch. Andrew ran hard all day and is working well on his defensive side of his game, we saw some good signs in this area today so keep it up Andrew. Tyler played his best game for us today, we asked him to get from contest to contest and it's exactly what he did. Probably ran out of steam in the last quarter without any bench to rest but played a good all round team game today.



We're not far from it, just haven't quite got the team balance right so we'll keep working hard until we do. Looking forward to next week so in the meantime - go  ...

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

This week the Under 14 Girls had a Bye, hopefully they spent it spoiling their Mum's!

U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played Ormond on a stunning afternoon at our home of football, Scammell Reserve. While our opponents were yet to win a game this season, we did not want to take them too lightly. We hadn't played our best footy over the prior couple of weeks and we needed to get our game back in order.

That didn't happen immediately. It was a bit of déjà vu from the week before, where we dominated possession and territory but could only kick points. We once again fell into the habit of playing selfish football, chasing kicks rather than maintaining structure.

The first half was frustrating to watch. If it wasn't for Campbell and Oskar we could have found ourselves behind at half time. The backline held up well but the forward line was not working cohesively and the ball kept rebounding out as quickly as we went in.

In the third quarter we moved Nathan into the midfield he had an immediate impact, driving the ball forward. As the opposition tired, our forwards started to find space and Ari, Sam and Drew started to take their marks. We were still a bit wayward in attack, but we were getting on top. Things really clicked in the last quarter. Our forwards started leading into space and the mid-fielders were delivering the ball well. When it did hit the ground, our small forwards took advantage and we finally started to hit the scoreboard. In the end we had a 10 goal win, but the margin flattered us a bit.

We show glimpses of being a very good football team, but we do have a habit of ball chasing and that causes congestion around the contest. We play our best football when we share the football, get it into the open and deliver into our forward line quickly. We will continue to work on this game style in coming weeks. Looking forward to finding out our Grade for the rest of the season and continuing to improve each week.



Don't forget to follow us on social media for all the latest news

Facebook: Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club

Instagram: @oakleigh_dragonsjfc

U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh Dragons 1-8-14 Hampton Rovers 9-2 - 56

The Big winner of round 4 was "Friday Night Football" and the showcasing of our brilliant footy club. For the previous 2 weeks the excitement and anticipation of the upcoming double header was huge from the under 16 and under 18 girls. It was also Mother's Day round. Not to mention we also celebrated 50 games to Jessica Hopgood and Sienna Bernardo, congratulations girls truly fantastic achievement!!

Let's get back to the game...our first quarter was tight with Gracie again stepping up and kicking our first goal. The second and third quarters Hampton kicked away and unfortunately going into the last quarter we were 8 goals down. At the break I asked that everyone dig deep and salvage a last quarter win. And that is exactly what they did. We had all the attacking play, but our accuracy in front of goal let us down ending up with 1 goal-8 behinds for the night. Keep your spirits up girls, that next win is just around the corner.

**U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL**

Coming off yet another heavy defeat - the U16 boys headed down the road to face Caulfield/St Kilda at Koornang Park.

In what can only be described as 'perfect conditions for football' the boys were as keen as ever to get onto the winners list.

Hampered by injury, the boys took the fight to their opposition from the first bounce - letting them know early that they were no pushovers. A tight first quarter saw only two goals separating the two teams at the first break, with Caulfield/St Kilda leading as the siren blew.

The opening minutes of the second quarter were much the same, tight. However it didn't take long for our opposition to hit their strides. They kicked away throughout the term to go in leaders by 7 goals at half time.

The long break did little to stem the run of goals, but you wouldn't have known it if you were watching, as the Dragons continued to fight tooth and nail to keep themselves in the contest. A couple of flashes of brilliance filled the team with confidence and reminded them and everyone watching that they are more than capable of playing very high level football. Caulfield/St Kilda however extended their lead going into the last quarter.

Some throwing around of the magnets ensued as the final term began. Forwards became defenders and vice versa - with great effect - bamboozling the opposition on several occasions. Despite the scoreline, the boys played a fun brand of football, never once dropping their heads, we couldn't be prouder.

Caulfield/St Kilda ran out the victors, but the Dragons lost no fans with their performance.

P.S - There are probably a few defenders who are eyeing off forward line spots in the next couple of weeks...make sure you get to training!



U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: St Bedes Mentone Away Game Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 19

For the second week in a row, we come up against an undefeated team. The ground looked a picture, the sun was shining, and the guys looked ready to go. Congratulations to Seth who played his first game of competition footy and did very well.

From the first bounce we could tell it was going to be a competitive game. St Bede's are a quick team who move the ball well and use their narrow ground to advantage. The first quarter was an arm wrestle with the opposition heading into the first break with a slight lead. For the second week in a row our second quarter has let us down and we needed to play catch up footy in the second half. Our third quarter as easily our best and we had most of the play, as we spoke about, we need to score when we have the momentum. The last quarter saw the home team get over the line, unfortunately we were down a couple of players with Xavier and Oscar being injured and not being able to play out the game – good luck to them both.

Special mentions from the game:

- The skipper asked to play more time in the mid field and did very well. His attack on the ball is fantastic. I must mention our ever-reliable Full back, Aden, who keeps performing at a very high level.
- Our on-ball brigade was again working well with Jimmy, having another good game giving us first use. Stevie, Oscar, and Pete keeping working hard and get to lots of contests.
- Some of our new players Luca, Jezza and Stitches (goal of the day in the last quarter) had good games and it is going to be exciting to see what these guys bring to this team.
- It was a good competitive game where we shared the ball and ran together, we will work on our skill execution and forward entries and be better for it.

See all the players at training this week. We are 2 wins and 2 losses and will stay in Div 2. We know we need to improve in areas and will work hard to do so.

Go Dragons

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

Round 4 was a Friday night classic at Scammell against East Malvern. With Mother's Day on the weekend, those Mums present received a cup cake and a hug from their daughter at the start of the game.

It was a low scoring affair with no goals kicked in the first half, despite our girls having most of the play in our forward line. Gracie kicked a goal in the third quarter to match Malvern's goal and we were in front at three quarter time 10 points to 8. The last quarter was an arm wrestle, but a late goal to the visitors saw them finish with the win 2:2 14 to 1:5 11.



As usual, the teams' commitment, effort, tackling and determination couldn't be questioned. Our defenders were desperate and prevented plenty of scoring opportunities and our forwards gave us chances to score.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 4

ROUND 4 / SUNDAY 14 MAY



Lily F played a blinder and was a steamroller across the backline. Daisy ran, kicked, smothered and tackled all night. Matisse and Tayla got lots of the ball and used it well. Freya and Giselle put their head over the ball and drove us forward.

A big thanks to U16's Sienna, Gracie, Eva and Jessica for playing with us straight after their game and doing a great job.

It's always disappointing to lose a close game, especially when you are leading for most of it, but all the girls should be really proud of the way they played.



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.

Oakleigh Rotary Market

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 Street, Oakleigh

Rotary



Oakleigh
Clayton
Huntingdale





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)					

