



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 5

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

We wrapped up our week in recognition of all our 303 registered Club Volunteers. In acknowledgement of the time and commitment that every single one of you do. From Child Safety Officers to Coaches, from Club Volunteer Umpires to Committee, and from Trainers to Time Keepers, we could not get our kids on to the ground every week if it wasn't for all of you. Grub was celebrated with free Grill'd sliders and chips in recognition of your commitment. Thank you to all 303 of you that have registered with the Club.

Congrats to Jack and Yanni on playing their milestone 100 matches. Well Done.

For most teams, Round 5 marked the start of the season after grading, giving us all a glimpse of who will be in our divisions for the remainder of the season. Monday saw that the U12 Girls Divisions will stay the same, the U14 Boys are now a 4 Div competition and East Brighton Vampires were relegated down to Div 2 with our boys, all their Round 6 matches should now be released.

Training tops are still for sale, so get one quick before they're all sold out and remember you can have custom printing organised too for the back, no chance of losing it then.

We start off our Round 6 with the U14 Girls under lights on Friday night, 5:00pm at Scammell. If you are around, please come down and cheer them on, on the back of their big win last week.

Have a safe and fun weekend.

Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips

President

# GO DRAGONS

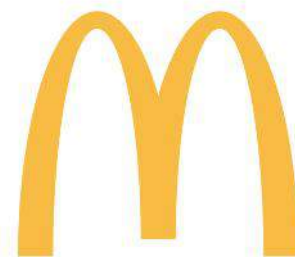
### 2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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## 2023 MAJOR SPONSORS



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**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc





## MILESTONE GAMES!

# CONGRATULATIONS

Yanni Armatas, U16 boys

# 100 GAMES



# CONGRATULATIONS

Jack Allan, 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](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)





## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Our boys went at it undermanned from the get go again.

Becoming a pattern for us but we are using every challenge as an opportunity. We battled away all day with the opposition commenting on our competitive spirit.

It wasn't our day on the scoreboard but we played our game again of pressure, togetherness and enjoyment which is all I ask of the lads.

### U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

Wow, so close today for our boys but unfortunately after leading all game we went down to Black Rock in a close one. It was undoubtedly the best four quarter effort from us all year, I was particularly impressed by the tackling and defensive pressure we were able to bring today – a standard we now know we can maintain for the rest of the season.

In tough conditions we were able to hit our targets and link up well as a team. Every week we keep on improving in all parts of the game and the hard work the kids are putting in at training is showing off at game day.

Well done to everyone today, it was a real team effort with our backs making it hard for them to score, the mids cracking in all game winning contests and the forward line looking every so dangerous.

As I keep saying, the win the boys deserve is just around the corner, we now have set the benchmark on effort that we know we can achieve!! Go Dragons!!!

### U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a cold and wet morning we played Ajax in Caulfield.

With a few players pulling out just before the game we started with 15 on the field and 14 after half time.

We had control of the game for the most part but following some forced changes in the last quarter we had to restructure the midfield and were overrun, to go down by only a few points. A great effort by everyone.

Well done to Thomas E, David, James, Archer, Greg, Ben, Max M and Thommy M on putting in solid performances. Rishabh, Harvey, Deon and Ethan played their part either in midfield or defence.

A special mention to Marco, Maison and Max B on trying their best and they are improving week by week.

Even though we didn't take the chocolates today, there are definite signs the team is improving and we are not far away from singing the song.





## U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

The team took on St Paul's away in windy conditions. A strong breeze favoured the one end all day and St Paul's made the most of their opportunities throughout the game when kicking with the wind.

Our team played extremely well. Dion, Noah and Darwell were strong in defence. James, Luke and Blake really moved the ball forward in the midfield and Cameron, Thomas and Hugh were lively up forward resulting in two goals to Thomas.

Unfortunately we went down by 30 points but I was really proud of the effort with our captains Emily and Zoe leading by example!

St Pauls 6.8.44  
Dragons 2.2.14

Captains Zoe and Emily (pictured)

Goals: Thomas 2



## U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

This week we played Murrumbeena at Scammell and were lucky enough to kick the dew off the ground for an 8am start on what was a windy and overcast day where goals were always going to be hard to come by.

Co-Captains were Darcy and Phoenix both of whom played strong games in a low-scoring and dour affair.

For the first time this season we kicked the first goal thanks to some great teamwork in the pocket between Leo, Harrison and David. It was fantastic to see the boys celebrate when David snapped it through.

Murrumbeena hit back with a couple of goals in the following quarter before we got our nose in front again in the 3rd thanks to a great goal on the run from Teddy which set up a hotly contested final term. Murrumbeena were throwing everything at us but our boys stood firm

Jonah and Ambrose starred with multiple repeat efforts and were burrowing in getting muddy to help us get first hands to the footy.

Masaki and Teddy were doing the same in the forward line as were Finn and Matty down back with both boys cutting off several forward attacks.

The last few minutes of the game saw the ball camped in the opposition forward line and we only had a 3 point margin. As hard as they tried, Murrumbeena could not match our boy's desire and find that extra goal to hit the front. Special mention must go to Oliver who was smart enough to position himself on the goal line and save the day by stoppin what would have been a certain goal.

The siren rang shortly after and the boys erupted in celebration. It was great to see them sing the song for the first time this year.

Go Dragons!



## U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

We knew it would be a challenge, playing a team that's come from Division 2 and only having 11 available players but that's how we like it!

Playing on the duck pond at Princes Highway was always going to be a slog and even though we had the breeze in the 1st quarter both teams couldn't score, but we had plenty of chances.

The second quarter saw Hampton make the most of the wind that picked up and kicked 3 goals though probably would've kicked more if not for our wall of Semira down back, booting the ball clear time and time again.

Half time it was 20 to zero and that's when the fun began. Sophia started dominating in the ruck and around the ground, Jess, Bonnie and Skye made the most of Sophia's ruck work and were able to move the ball into our forward line. If we didn't have the ball, the girls made sure Ormond wasn't going anywhere with repeated strong tackles and when we tackle our opponents they stayed tackled.

There was no stopping Miette, when she got the ball she glided across the ground leaving the girls in her wake along the wing. By the last change we were only a couple of goals down after a 1 goal (Sophia) 5 behind quarter and holding Hampton scoreless.

Hampton coming home with the strong wind in the last and our girls not having an interchange all day, it was going to take a massive team effort and the girls were up for the challenge.

Stella and Olivia were awesome all match and found another gear in the last, Stella with her breath taking runs and Olivia with her manic pressure, big tackles and uncanny ability to pick up the ball from the bottom of the pack and get it to a teammate.

Even though Hampton had the wind the ball lived in our forward line, Kiana was brilliant all day end especially in the last quarter playing forward/mid marking everything and keeping the ball locked in to create chances for Lavinia and Victoria who kept hunting the ball.

It's still a mystery to this day how Skye's shot at goal and Lavinia's shot didn't cross the goal line and in the end we went down 1-6-12 to 3-4-22.

I have never been prouder as a coach of the girl's desire and willingness to compete.

## U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

First game after the grading and an 8.30am game on a rainy morning at Cheltenham.

We had a chat before the game about ensuring we started playing football from the very first bounce, unlike the week before and I am very pleased to say, that is exactly what they did. We played 17 v 17 and the game was very even throughout with the first half with the scores even at half time.

Cheltenham had some extra players turn up just before half time, so we moved to 18 each and (for us, one on the bench and our boys continued to play great football, strong at the ball, first to the ball, pressure on the opposition which saw us up a couple of goals at three-quarter time.

They came back at us with the wind in the last quarter and added 1 goal 1 point to our 2 points but couldn't catch us. Charlie, Jaron, and Liam were great all game, clean, and hard at the ball. Heath and Troy M played half a game each and were strong and kept the ball out of our backline and going forward to teammates.





Ryder continues to impress using his speed to get to the ball first then kicking long to advantage, which is great to see. Jimmy, Alex, and Kirby were in and under all day, and up against a very good bunch of players from Cheltenham and they more than held their own.

Robbie, Lachlan and Mihalís never stopped, they broke up the opposition's forward movements, got handballs out to teammates and all were consistently shepherding well. Our ruck players, Caleb, Dion, Rhys, and Jacob contested in the air, the opposition ruck was very good, but Dion and Rhys were up to the challenge and played well, getting to the ground most of the time, Caleb and Jacob were great targets and not beaten all day, either got the ball to ground or marked it themselves.

Josh and Max played at different ends of the ground, but I am not sure I have seen either of them play better games, they ran hard and took marks and were hard at the ball. Ajay played in the centre all day, he was getting that much of the ball the opposition was trying to unsettle him, he did very well to not let it get to him and concentrated on playing football which was an effort.

Well done boys, we are so proud of you all, not just because of the win, but for how you went about playing the game. Hope you all get good night's sleep this Saturday night because we have an early 8am home game at Scammell and we will need to be on from the very first ball up again.

## U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Hi everyone... Grading has finished and we technically entered the opening round of the new season at St Bede's Mentone. The rain stayed away which was nice and we put in a very good performance taking out the win 93 to 19 (74 points). We really liked our run and carry game on the back of some strong handballs out of contests...something we've been training for all year.

With Harrison and Curtis still out injured we had Heath come up from Div 5 who really showed he can contribute with his strength and balance. A really good first up game Heath. We felt we had many team contributors today which was pleasing all round. Liam battled hard, Troy fitted in at both ends of the ground, Paul defended hard across half back whilst Will was a prime target deep forward even though carrying a sore foot.

Cam took a couple of strong marks down the wing whilst Archie found himself in very good positions resulting in him getting the ball quite a few times. Oscar continues to improve at the contest, Darcy R and James are rocks in defence, but even more importantly are showing great leadership for their team mates.

Aidan is clean in the air and stopped several opposition attacks. Tommy is carrying a leg niggle but still managed 2 majors, Whilst Cooper ran so hard all game we had to rest him a little in the last quarter. Johnny keeps getting better and better and his foot skills were very nice today. Andrew is another player showing good consistency and Kaeleb took some real strong marks during the game. Harland keeps strong in the ruck and with his run and carry - he busted out with several clearances from the centre of the ground. Darcy M is also carrying an injury however he managed 6 goals (with a few points as well) so some goal kicking practice required during the week.

All in all we were really pleased with the effort today. We started playing some smart familiar footy - and as we improve we hope to see this get stronger and stronger as the year goes on. Back on the track this week to add some skill based work and we look forward to next week's contest.



Go Dragons



## U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

We played the Waverley Park Hawks at a cold and damp Columbia Park. The ball zipped up and down the ground all first quarter with very little score until the Hawks unfortunately kicked a goal with 2 seconds to go. But to the girls credit they dug deep and continually surged the ball forward where Zoe kicked our first goal. Our undersized backline stood up all game, a mighty effort from all the girls who played down back.

The opposition girls were much taller, a little bit more mobile and a little bit more skilful but that mattered little to these girls as they showed plenty of heart and determination to grind out this win. From where these girls have come, from the very first training session to now, their individual improvement in skills and knowledge of the game makes us coaches very proud.

This was an excellent TEAM win with a few to mention.

Sienna, ran hard, battled all day, copped one in the neck but kept going.

Gia, up and down the wing most of the day. Great to see.

Sophie, clunked some very nice marks playing forward and unselfishly gave off a shot for goal.

Serana, from full back to the middle. Out of her comfort zone but contested all day.

Zoe, I asked for a captain's game and got it.

Milly B, so adaptable. Always fighting for the ball. Kicked the sealer from a very tight angle.

Well done girls, A SUPER TEAM EFFORT!! LET'S KEEP IT GOING!!

## U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played against: Hampton At: Scammell Reserve

We played Hampton in an early morning game in a week that had seen a few injuries and plenty of sickness impact the team. Even the coach wasn't feeling 100%.

Hampton turned up ready to play and our boys continued the recent trend of starting slowly. The conditions meant that the ball was on the ground a lot and our opponents were hard at the contest. They shared the ball well and we were very slow to pick up our opponents. Our boys struggled to match that in the first half and the result was a three goal deficit. That margin would have been greater if it wasn't for the backline, with Adam, Henry and Oskar leading the way.

In the second half we started to get our act together. Josh started to focus on getting the ball and Campbell, Oskar and Nathan started to take over in the midfield. But the opposition flooded our forward line and despite dominating the play we couldn't convert that into goals. The final margin was a loss of seven points and it was a real reminder that if we don't arrive ready to play every week, we will get beaten.

More to work on this 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 4-2-26 Cheltenham 3-6-24

Goals: Brianna, Charlotte, Izzy, Bonnie

Back at Scammell against Cheltenham the girls were pumped!! I'd asked them to make the most of every opportunity and to use the ball accurately. And that's exactly what they did, it was a great spectacle. We went hard and when we had possession we were able to hit target's downfield. This was because of the hard running and getting into vacant parts of the ground. The game itself was very close and we went into the last quarter 1 point up. It wasn't until the last 4 minutes that Cheltenham snuck into their forward line and a goal put them in front by 5 points. However the endeavour and never give up attitude came through and Bonnie ran onto a forward ball, kicking a pressure goal and the lead was ours again. But wait, with 2 mins left Cheltenham scored a quick point and the match was tied!!!! Again the girls thought a draw isn't good enough and they moved the ball forward to score 2 points of their own and take the victory.

- Izzy, Charlotte and Brianna were great and they all kicked their first ever goals.
- Gracie, Bonnie, Harriet, Fiona, Taylor, Ruby and Chanel are my swing group and they played well in different positions.
- Natalie and Eva are the Generals down back and not much gets past them.
- Sienna and Jessica ran through the middle and set up numerous plays going forward.
- Ebony (Richo) Richardson "literally" ran her guts out.
- And Sophie was our superstar who after a 1/2 time incident stood tall and made her football do the talking. She dominated every ball that came her way.

Well done ladies!!!



## U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL



Oakleigh Dragons Under 16's Vs. Port Souths

This weekend saw the Oakleigh Dragons Under 16's re-enter Division 2 after a month in the first division following their successful 2022 Campaign. Though the boys never stopped trying and kept a positive attitude throughout the first month of grading, they were ultimately relegated. With the ladder resetting after grading, this clash provided a perfect opportunity for the Dragons to set the tone for the rest of the season with a clean slate. The Dragons were also celebrating 100 matches to Jack "Gump" Allan and Yanni Armatas.

Oakleigh hosted Port/Souths at the Dragon's den and made it their mission to start the contest with a bang. The game began with a tense tussle, but Oakleigh were able to slowly gain the ascendancy throughout the term edging out Port/Souths by 9 points at the first break.

The Second term saw Port/Souths wrestle back control with the wind at their backs. Oakleigh were able to hang on but seemed unable to capitalize on their attack, kicking 5 behinds for the term to Port/Souths 2 goals 2 behinds.



After halftime, the Dragons came out motivated to take control of the game and send a message to the other teams in the division. The Dragons were able to pile on 5 goals 6 and keep Port/Souths scoreless in the premiership quarter with a strong team performance and consistent.

The final term saw Oakleigh playing free flowing footy moving the ball from wing to wing and end to end (much to their coach's delight). The Oakleigh outfit proved too strong for Port/Souths at home and were able to run away with a 35-point win to kick start their premiership defence in division 2. The boys fought hard throughout the day and were able to take home the chocolates for their effort.

Oakleigh Dragons	2.4-16	2.9-21	7.15-57	8.16-64
Port/South	1.1-7	3.2-20	3.2-20	4.5-29
Goals: Andy (3), Jack A (1), Giorgios (1), Mason (1), Sasha (1), Jack W (1)				

## U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

This week the U17 boys had a Bye.

## U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY



This National Volunteer Week I would like to acknowledge the great work done by volunteers at The Oakleigh Dragons. The club wouldn't exist without them and each game of footy would not occur with the time and effort put in by volunteers on game day. A big Thank You to all the volunteers that help make our club great! Volunteers for our team are pictured here.

This week we came up against the Beaumaris Sharks. We were missing 5 players and borrowed some U16s to make up our team. The Sharks got the better of us in the first half kicking 3 goals to nil. Our second half was much better and we got a goal each. The final score was 1:3-9 to 4:15-39.

Despite the loss the girls displayed real determination to play out the game.

- Chooty played her best game for the year and provided lots of run off half back. She took a few great marks and attacked the ball all day.
- Gecko defended really well and had plenty of kick outs (15), all of which were executed perfectly.
- Lily F was thrown into the ruck and attacked the ball with her trademark aggression.
- Gisselle got plenty of it and displayed her trademark "don't argues".
- Ella had a breakout game. She tackled, bumped, took marks and was active across half forward.
- Jess from the U16 was a great addition and took a number of goal saving marks down back.
- Thanks to the other U16's Bonnie, Eva and Fiona for playing a second game.

This week we will be training with the Krushers Female team and a couple of AFL players. Get along to pick up some tips and learn a few things from the older girls.



Photo: Happy but sad





## TRAINING WITH THE KRUSHERS WOMEN'S TEAM

On 23 May the U16 and U18 Girls teams trained with the Krushers Women's team at Scammell. AFLW players and former Oakleigh Dragons Steph and Lucy Wales were also at training and ran some drills for the girls. It was a great night with lots of interaction, energy and fun. Our Dragons girls got to practice some different drills and see the skill levels of the older Krusher players. A big thanks to Jeff Fortune for organising the night and to Steph and Lucy for returning to help out at their junior club.







# OAKLEIGH DRAGONS

## Training Tops\*

Available to purchase at  
Scammell Reserve

Wed 24/05 4.30pm - 6.00pm

Thurs 25/05 4.30pm - 6.00pm

Sun 28/05 8.00am - 12.00pm

# \$40

.....

Head over to  
[twobrothersaustralia.com.au](http://twobrothersaustralia.com.au)  
for optional extra personalisation  
with your name on the back

\*note this is an optional item





## 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



## 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.



## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

To celebrate National Volunteers Week, the Dragons Committee organised a special Grub with free Grill'd sliders and chips. Thank you to everyone that came along to Grub to celebrate the amazing volunteer Committee, Coaches, Team Managers, Trainers and all game day volunteers that help make our club the fantastic community organisation that it is.



If you are interested in registering as a volunteer for the Club, you can apply for a free Working With Children Check (volunteer roles only) at [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)

Then provide your Working With Children Check details when you register as a volunteer with PlayHQ at [www.playhq.com/](http://www.playhq.com/)



## 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)					

