



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 7

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

Fabulous weather for football on Sunday where some of us swapped out beanies for hats. Friday night's double header was a great show of football, under lights, and it is good to see the League putting these in the fixture, so there should be plenty more to come for the remainder of the season. It was a great start to the round. Heading back to Scammell on Sunday afternoon, after my own away match, I watched a very competitive U18 boys match. Well done to John and the team, that was some great football.

I'd like to say thanks to our venue trainers Maddison and Emily who are there for every match at Scammell and they certainly have their hand full during some matches. Next time you are there, drop in and say "Thanks", they both deserve it.

Huge shout-out to the U10's and U11's teams for hosting grub this week, that queue went on forever! And a very special thankyou to the U10 mixed Green team who stayed behind to complete the pack up duties as well as a few committee members.

50 Gamers - Andrew M, Troy M, Archie J-S and Harland C. (U13 Green) Well Done!  
100 Gamer - Sam I (U18's). Congratulations.

Scammell is hosting the SMJFL Vic Metro Junior Development League this coming Saturday. U15 Boys SMJFL teams playing against the YJFL teams at 10am and 12 noon. If you are around and want a footy fix, head on down, the Canteen will be open! There's nothing better than local footy.

Have a safe long weekend.

Brodie Phillips  
President

# GO DRAGONS

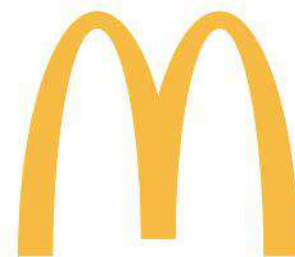
### 2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Tim Moreland  
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo  
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General Committee:  
Annelise Scott  
Justin Scott  
Sonya Moreland

## 2023 MAJOR SPONSORS



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



## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Andrew MacRae, U13 Mixed



### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Troy Morton, U13 Mixed



### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Archie Jarvis-Stewart, U13 Mixed







## CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Harland Craig, U13 Mixed



## CONGRATULATIONS

Sam Iverson, U18 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)







This June, our U18 Boys Joey, Jackson, James, Billy, Lachie, James, Jackson and Christian are taking part in The Push Up Challenge. We urge all of our Dragons Community to get behind these boys and help raise funds for a brilliant cause. Please donate here [www.thepushupchallenge.com.au](http://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au) and search for 'Oakleigh Dragons'.

Lifeline Australia is one of the beneficiaries of this year's The Push Up Challenge. Together, Lifeline and The Push Up Challenge aim to raise awareness about mental health and the impact of suicide on Australians. Participants will take on 3,144 push-ups across 23 days in June, putting the spotlight on the tragic number of lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2021.

All funds raised will go towards mental health and crisis support services, helping to break stigmas and provide hope to those struggling with their mental health, so no one is going through their darkest moments alone.

## REMINDERS

### UMPIRE ESCORT ROLE

Umpire Escorts must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid WWCC uploaded in PlayHQ.

The Umpire Escort must escort Field Umpires to and from the ground at the start of the match, during breaks, and at the end of the match. Umpire Escorts should offer drinks to the Umpires during breaks (ask your Team Manager for a water bottle).

The Umpire Escort is responsible for monitoring the Interchange. Players must enter and leave the field during a game via the designated Interchange Area unless a Player is injured. An injured Player may leave the field wherever is convenient and safe to do so, but their replacement must enter via the Interchange Area, and only once the injured Player is off the field.

The Umpire Escort must stand near the Interchange area during play, and may stand immediately inside the fence (but doesn't necessarily need to).

**The Club also asks that Umpire Escorts ensure all gates around the oval are secured during play, so as to prevent injuries to Players on the field.**



## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

We came up against a very talented Beaumauris side this weekend. We came out a bit slow and our energy levels were a bit below normal which was disappointing after such a positive effort on that front last week.

Injuries weren't our friend either this weekend in yet another test of our group's resilience. While we've usually passed these mini-tests with flying colours, you can tell the lads are needing the bye. Connor was superb in his final game for a couple of months and Josh played his best game for the club to date.

Plenty of learnings came out of this as can tend to be the case when the play is against you for the majority of the day, we look forward to getting back to work.

### U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

Our boys took on Highbury at Princes Highway Reserve in lovely conditions for footy. From the moment we started warming up I could tell the boys were switched on and ready for the game, something we have been working on as a team all year.

After a disappointing game the week prior, the way the boys bounced back was a real credit to the group putting together a complete four quarter effort that resulted in a great outcome for the kids.

The sheer joy expressed by the boys when that final siren went was amazing to see and this continued back in the rooms when they got to sing the club song loud and proud, many for the very first time.

It's extremely hard for me to single individuals out after a performance like that as it was a real team effort that every player can be proud of playing their roles for the team. Togetherness and being part of a team has been one of our focuses this year, and it showed today that a strong team effort goes a long way to getting a fantastic outcome.



The team was led superbly by our Co-captains for the day in Ari and Koby.

Well done Dragons, you made us all proud with your efforts today and celebrated in the right spirit of the game too!!

## U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a beautiful morning we faced Waverley Hawks at Columbia Park in Wheelers Hill.

Well done on back to back games where everyone played their part and we sung our song loud and proud.

Well done to Thomas E, Greg, David, Archer, Rishabh and James (Captain for the week) on putting in solid performances.

The pressure all over the ground has improved every week with Harvey, Anastasios, Ethan, Henry, Maison, Max B, Thommy M, Max M, Tyler, Ben and Kai on combining well in their varying positions they played to defend well and move the ball forward to create plenty of opportunities for our forwards. Marco and Deon were great targets up forward and made the most of their opportunities.

We are improving every week and the skills we are working on at training are showing up at game time and we have been rewarded with the results going our way.



## U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

We came up against St Kilda City at Scammell on a beautiful sunny morning. The kids started well early applying plenty of pressure around the ball and winning the contest for most of the first half. Darwell was brilliant doing all the grunt work for us in the midfield and bringing his team mates into the game. Seth got onto one in the forward line and put it straight through the middle.

The second half was much the same as the first, Eli laid tackle after tackle, Noah's contested game was brilliant to watch. Whilst our intent throughout was commendable, the opposition were able to make the most of some errors that we made and ultimately cost us the game. None the less our effort and endeavour cannot be questioned, so well done.

Captains: Josh and Wyatt (pictured)



## U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

This week we played our local rivals Dingley Dingoes at Scammell on Friday night under lights. We had already played Dingley twice this season at their home ground and were soundly beaten on both occasions so we knew we had to lift if we were to match them. The Dingoes have lots of big bodies and we had 3 of our bigger boys out on the night so it was going to take a huge team effort to get over the line... and boy did we get one!

Co-Captains were Karlos and David and both led by example. They ran their hearts out and tackled strongly which gave us plenty of momentum from the middle early on and set the tone for a high-pressure, contested game which is how we like to play.





Masaki played his best game for the season and Ambrose and Finn also starred around the ground while Alex and Zach bullocked into contests to keep pushing us forward.

We kicked 3 goals on the night, each of which gave the boys a real lift. 2 goals in general play - one a beautiful banana and the other a fantastic snap. We also kicked a great set shot goal from a mark which was the end of a chain of play where Masaki had to take on 3 opposing players to win a loose ball back and send it forward. This goal gave us enough breathing space to keep the opposition at bay and get the win.

Finley took some great marks in the forward line, Cam, Teddy, Darcy William and Jonah showed acts of bravery in the contest and Terrell also came very close to kicking his first goal - maybe next week!

Honestly I could mention every player as it was a proper team effort that all the boys should be proud of. The opposition coach also praised our boys on how they played for each other in his address after the game.

Still plenty to work on but the progress the boys have made between Friday night and the first time we played the Dingoes was there to see and we will continue to build on this at training.

Go Dragons!

## U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

We were finally back at home at Scammell, from the duck pond to the mud pit!!

Playing against East Bentleigh we knew it was going to be close, only just scrapping home last time we played.


The first quarter and a half was an arm wrestle, we were playing with no interchange and one less on the field but you wouldn't have noticed because of how hard our girls were working around the field.

Semira continues to be amazing down back, ever reliable in the air or in the ground cleaning up and booting the ball clear with that bomb left foot.

We had so much run out of our back line, Stella starred in her best match of the year and was recognized by our opponents at the end of the match. Miette in full flight glides across the field with ball in hand and creates so many opportunities to attack.

Half way through the second term Ruby arrived and we found another gear. After half time we put the foot down, and it was all attack, Olivia roaming around, stopping the other team whilst being creative and setting up much of our run from the middle. Sophia again did a power of work, intelligently working around the ground giving our players a chance to run clear and we did.

Bonnie and Jess ripped through the opposition, breaking backs (and their hearts) tackling hard, running clear and setting up and our scoring opportunities. Kiana once again showed her marking and kicking ability and composure up forward. Once we got our game going Lavinia and Victoria kept the ball locked in the forward line with their pressure and gave Tyra a chance to get into scoring positions. We had 8 shots on goal, a season high!!

Every week the girls seem to find new ways of making me proud to be their coach and singing the song is starting to get addictive! 





## U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

We played Hampton Rovers at Hampton

A fantastic day weather-wise and the boys said they were ready to go. We knew Hampton were going to be a tough side to play against, they came down from Div 4 where they seemed competitive without a win.

They proved they were quite a good side, and although the ball moved up and down the full length of the ground for the first half, we were unable to register a score. Our Boys never gave up, a couple of times when they looked like their heads were dropping our players encouraged each other which reinvigorated the team.

At half time the discussion was about, "getting our hands on the ball and being strong while doing it". The boys knew they could grab the ball with strength and not let it out too easily, then get it to our advantage. So, in the third quarter the boys went out and fought hard for the ball, defended very well and had many outstanding pieces of play that both stopped opposition goals and also resulted in 2 Goals to our team, one from Ollie (his first goal ever) and one from Liam N, both were from some super skilled teamwork. I would go as far as to say that both plays that ended up in our goals were as good as any I have seen all year, and against a very good opposition.

The last quarter didn't go our way but with the way we played in the third quarter is a great indication that at times we can match it with a very good oppositions at least for a short period. Our aim is to match is for longer and continue to work on improving and developing every person with football knowledge, skills and abilities.

See you all at training this week, even though there is no game next weekend, and we can enjoy our long weekend off, we will hit the track hard and keep the improvement coming.


## U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Our first home game in a month so it was nice to be back at Scammell Reserve where we took on St Kilda City/Port Melbourne. It was a cracking day with the sun shining, so no excuses for good footy. We were able to finally celebrate 50 games for Andrew, Troy, Archie and Harland (pictured) at our home deck. Congratulations lads! It was a scrappy game for the most part and really hard to get a gauge on our form as I know we can play a lot better - even though we ran out winners by 7 points.

The opposition jumped us early and we were second to the ball which is something we need to get better at. Tyler was a late withdrawal so we relied on some grunt out of the middle via Tommy, Andrew and Harland. We had to be on our game as they led us at the early change by 8 points. The second quarter was an improvement as we managed to get the ball forward and hit the score board with 4 goals to 1 point for the quarter. This allowed us to lead by 16 points at half time. Johnny, Cam & Cooper worked hard across the middle whilst Darcy M, Will and Troy provided forward options.

Curtis contested well, Health provided strength forward/ back and Harrison got his hands on the ball in attack. Archie, Paul and Darcy R never stopped trying and Kaeleb was our most dangerous forward kicking 2 goals. Oscar kept working all day and he ran from contest to contest but we thought Aiden and James down back were real steady ships when the opposition were peppering the goals in the last quarter.

It was good to get the 4 points but still plenty to work on as we try and get better, so let's get to training so we can try to improve as much as we can.

Go Dragons 



**U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD**

Today we played St Bedes/Mentone at their home ground. It was a foggy and chilly morning for this great match up. The last time we played this team I told the opposition Coach that we were coming for them and we certainly did that today! I told our girls that we needed to start strong as the last 2 times we played St Bedes/Mentone, they ran away with the game in the first quarter and we weren't able to catch up. These girls have improved astronomically since Round 2 and it absolutely showed on the ground.

Our back line left nothing to chance, tackling and applying such immense pressure that St Bedes/Mentone were unable to kick a goal the entire game. Our midfield worked brilliantly together, tackling and attacking the ball over and over again. This gave our forward line the opportunity to shine, and work on their development as individuals and as team players.

It was a very aggressive and physical game, and in the end we came away with the win 3. 7. 25 to 0. 6. 6. Congratulations to this exceptional bunch of young women, working together to develop as a playing group and as individual footy players. Couldn't be more proud of them!

Special mentions: Sienna applied tackles, smothers, spoils and a bit of banter as well! Lucy received a very well deserved Player of the Game award from the opposition Coach, after she spent the entire game chasing the ball and her player, applying awesome tackles and playing her best game this season. Misaki used her turbo legs brilliantly and took direction exceptionally well, constantly moving to the right position for her team.

Goals: Sienna 1, Yana 1, Lucia 1

**U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER**

We returned to D W Lucas Oval to face East Malvern for the first time since our loss there in the finals last year so we were keen to eradicate that memory with a positive performance. Without Ari, Jack and Jeremy we were literally a bit short on key position forwards, but we found a way.

Our initial forays forward looked a lot like last time we played there, a lot of missed shots and only points on the board. But with Sam and Oskar rotating in the Ruck and at full forward, we finally found an avenue to goal...namely Oskar, who kicked our first four majors.



Once the game settled into a rhythm we were able to take control. The ball spent a lot of time in our attacking zone and consequently more and more players ended up around the ball and cluttering up the space forward 50. It made the game a bit more of a rolling maul than we would have liked, but we continued to maintain the upper hand.

When the ball did get into our defence, Lachie, Adam and Henry were there to rebound. In the last quarter, Takoda and Nathan lined up across the half back line and gave us plenty of drive. The ball started to flow into the forward line quicker and scoring followed suit.

Oskar ended with six goals and Noah with three. A particular highlight was Patrick's long bomb in the last quarter to get his name on the goalkickers list as well. So, we've won 2 from 2 and sit on top of the ladder, but we are yet to play the better teams. The real test will come after the bye when we play Cheltenham who are also undefeated.

Good Luck to Oskar and Nathan in this week's representative games. The rest of us enjoy a break over the long weekend.

## U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 8-7-55 St Bedes 1-2-8

Lucky enough to have another Friday night game, the girls came with their A-Game tonight. We moved the ball with precision and accuracy. Having been outmuscled last week we weren't going to allow that to happen again. Everyone stood tall and we dominated in all positions.

A few standouts for the night were Taylor who played her best ever game for the Dragons. Charlotte who again kicked a goal and flourished playing up the ground.

Emily, Izzy and Sienna (one goal) who propelled many forward challenges. Brianna (2 goals) who was busy up forward and of course Bonnie who played both in the ruck and forward kicking 4 goals of her own.

Play like this girls and we'll go a long way this year!

A get together at McDonald's after the game topped off a great night.





## U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

Round 7 saw the Dragon's under 16's team facing Prahran in the Grand Final rematch. The match was to take place at a neutral ground in Toorak due to the works on Prahran home ground. The match started hot with the Dragons bringing significant tackling pressure to Prahran midfield. A fairly even first term ended with Prahran holding a minor lead.

The second term saw the play open up a bit with the wide wings being exploited by Prahran. This term saw significant pressure applied from both sides. However, Oakleigh were able to match their opposition for long patches but ultimately trailed at the main break.

The third term was played on Prahran's terms with the Dragons struggling to hit the score board. Whilst the scoring opened up for both sides Prahran was able to build to their lead in the premiership quarter.

The final term began with back to back goals from Prahran to stamp their authority on the game. Whilst the Dragons were able to match it with the premier team in the league, facing one of the stronger teams in the division without their captain and a host of other players proved a bridge too far for the Dragons. With plenty to work on, the Dragons will hit the training ground hard this week and look to bounce back.

## U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: WP Hawks Home Game      Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 24 points

The Football Gods were smiling on us with a beautiful day and Scammell was in great condition. The team looked ready to go with great energy in the rooms before the game. We knew it was going to be a competitive game.

We started very well with some good Oakleigh footy in the first half. We were looking to play on at all times and provided great defensive pressure, we didn't let the Hawks into the game. We had an 8-goal lead at the main break and looked ok. In the second half it was a different story, the Hawks, to their credit, started playing well and looked good. We went back into our shell a little in the third quarter but rallied in the last to have a win by 24 points, it was great to get back on the winners list.

Special mentions from the game:

- Xavier had a special game at CHB. The back six are having a good year. Special mentions to Aden and Lachie who are flying at the moment.
- Billy and Elliot were great targets up forward with 3 goals each.
- The midfield again played well together with Stevie and Specky having good games. Jimmy marked the ball well and continues his good season.
- Let's all get behind Stitches and the Push up Boys with their charity endeavour. Well done, Stitches.

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

Go Dragons

## U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

We had a Twilight game at Malvern this week that started in bright sunshine and finished in darkness. The ground was really big, which meant our 16 players were in for a tiring day.

It was a special milestone this week with Choetso playing her 50th game for the Dragons – a really significant achievement! We will all run through the banner at our next home game in a couple of weeks.





# THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 7

ROUND 7 / SUNDAY 4 JUNE

A good start saw us 1 goal down at half time. In the second half the home side kicked six unanswered goals. Our backline were busy all day. Gecko was solid as usual, intercepting, tackling, marking and kicking us back into attack.

Jess filled in from the U16s and had plenty of the ball. Lily F played her bulldozer role off half back. Livvy, Bridget, Chooty and Daisy did a good job in defence and prevented plenty of scoring chances. Matisse, Tayla, Ayla and Freya tried hard all day across the midfield. Ella and the Olivia's (J and R) were lively across half forward when the ball got there.

Lilly G kicked her first goal for the team which was great! If not for a cruel bounce, Lozz would have scored a goal from long range just before the long break.

Well done girls, I was really proud of the way you fought out the game.



## 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)					

