



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

Round 6 started with the U14 Girls under lights on Friday night and they didn't disappoint! Well done to Justine and the Team on a great result. Early on Sunday morning I headed down to Peanut Farm Reserve at St Kilda to watch the U11's match and was really impressed by the effort the players put into this match. As the song goes "We'll never weaken 'till the final siren's gone" and the Team showed amazing effort in the final minutes of the last quarter to lock the ball in their forward 50. They just kept the pressure on. Be a proud team, you all did a great job.

From Round 8 onwards the SMJFL will be conducting spot checks around the grounds. If you haven't read and signed your Code of Conduct for players and parents, now is the time to understand your role as a parent/spectator and player and return these signed forms to your Team Manager as soon as possible. For the Coaches and Team Managers the link to the SMJFL Bylaws can always be accessed via the Dragons website, please take the time to refresh your memory. If you have any questions please let me know.

Congratulations to Eva Armatas (U16 girls) and Ayden Harryman (U14 Mixed) on their 50th games.

For all the die-hard Swans fans out there Warwick Capper will be auctioning off some memorabilia this coming Saturday during the OAFJ match as part of the OAFJ's 200 Club Luncheon, all auction proceeds coming to the Dragons.

Round 7 kicks off on Friday night with a double header under lights. U11's vs. Dingley at 6:00pm, then U16 Girls vs. SBMT at 7:30pm. If you are around, please come down to support the teams.

Don't forget that Grub is on this weekend, hosted by the combined U10's and U11 teams. So come on down for the tasty home cooked food, Coaches reports, meat tray and some pizza vouchers from Ferrari Pizza Oakleigh and see the recipients of the Grill'd Awesome Effort awards.

Have a safe and fun weekend.

Brodie Phillips
President

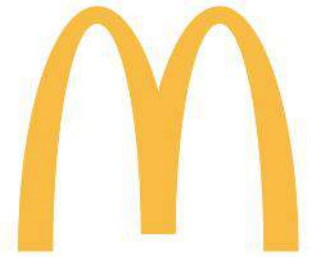
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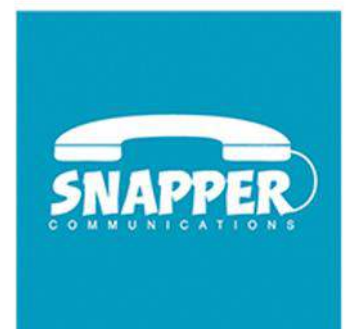
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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

Eva Armatas, U16 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

Ayden Harryman, U14 Mixed



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?
If you have any photos you'd like in the next Acorn,
please email them with a description to Kathy at complianceOYCFC@gmail.com





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Our boys battled it out against East Sandringham in tough conditions. They didn't put a foot wrong.

We were tough at the contest all day and celebrated everything as a team which is one of our core values.

Our defence was far better this week after a slip up last weekend which was great to see and we got to shuffle the magnets around in the second half such was our position in the game.

Was great to see the boys get some reward after a tough week prior.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

In tough conditions and undermanned we took on East Malvern at their home ground.

After a really promising performance last week we were shown up in our attack on the ball and it allowed them to be able to win the contest and in turn the territory battle, making it difficult for us to gain momentum throughout the game.

Special mentions to Boyd, Koby, Lachie and Oliver who tried and tried all game. It wasn't our day today, but there are always small positives we can take out of the game and continue to work on at training individually and together as a team to improve moving forwards.

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

We played Beaumaris at Beaumaris on a cold and wet morning. Beaumaris had 15 players so we obliged by playing 15 on 15 for the entire game.

After all the effort at training and during the games we finally got the result we deserved. Great win and a great effort by everyone, you all played your part.

A special mention to Thomas E and James on kicking 6 and 5 respectively and Harvey on kicking his first 2 goals for the club

Well done to David, Ethan, Thomas M, Max M, Kai (captain for the week), Greg, Ben, Archer and Marco on putting in solid performances.

It was great to see the defence give the opposition nothing where everyone played their part including Henry, Max B, Maison, Anastasios, Rishabh and Tyler.

No matter where the boys played on the ground, they played their role and this led to a solid victory.

We sang the song very loud and it was great to see all the boys have fun and enjoy themselves.



U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

We played in wet conditions against AJAX where we witnessed a fantastic game of footy.

The boys and girls pushed hard throughout the game but unfortunately we fell just short to lose by 6 points

Cameron kicked a goal early to keep us in the game but AJAX kicked four in a row to put the game almost out of reach. We challenged the team at 3/4 time and moved the magnets in the last quarter. Luke went forward and kicked two beautiful goals!

James and Charlie were terrific through the midfield constantly moving the ball forward. Blake and Darwell continued their hot early season form dominating in the middle. Kian took a great mark in the goal square and Zoe pushed to every contest in the ruck.

A win is just around the corner!

Captains: James and Kian (pictured)

Goals: Luke 2, Cameron 1



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

This week we played St Kilda City away at the Peanut Farm Reserve on a rainy wet morning.

Co-Captains were Masaki and Teddy both of whom played strong games with Masaki in defence giving plenty of rebound run and Teddy in the forward line giving plenty of run and drive.

We managed to kick the first goal of the game thanks to some smart positioning by Finn at the front of the pack in the goal square but unfortunately that was the only goal we could manage on the day.

St Kilda hit back with a couple of goals to take the lead but our boys kept hunting the footy and running in numbers to push the ball forward. We had the wind in the last quarter and held the ball in our forward line and had a couple of shots but just couldn't find that extra goal to hit the lead so ended up going down by 1 point.

Well battled boys. See you at training!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

We took on the undefeated Hawks at their home ground this weekend in the mud and rain. They've smashed everyone they've played this season, last time beating us by 6 goals but with a full list we were up for the challenge.

Sophia again dominated at the centre bounce and around the ground though a couple of quick goals after an arm wrestle opening saw us 2-0-12 to 0-1-1.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 6

ROUND 6 / SUNDAY 28 MAY

Our theme for the day was “CHAOS”, run the ball, tackle hard and keep the ball moving and in the second quarter we had Semira mopping up the ball down back and clearing it to our runners of Stella and Jess who linked up with Skye and Ruby moving it from the backline down the wings and giving our forwards a chance to score and get into the match.

The game was evenly poised at half time with no team scoring in the 2nd quarter and the 3rd was much the same thanks to Miette and Olivia who marked everything in their area and stopped the Hawks in their tracks and started our attacking plays for us off the half backline.

Lavinia and Tyra up front did a power of work keeping the ball near our goals, Lavinia taking a great mark and kicking a goal from the set shot which was later overruled by the ARC and only given a behind.

At the start of the last quarter the girls could sense an upset brewing and with some clever work Victoria ran onto the loose ball, waited intelligently to flick the handball over to Kiana who kicked a goal on the run to put us a goal down with plenty of time left.

Greta again was fierce down back when we needed her and Bonnie was powerful through the midfield.

Though the girls fought to the very end and their tackling was ferocious and at times unrewarded we ran out of time and went down by a goal but have sent a clear message that we are a seriously determined, tough yet fair bunch of girls that are getting better every week!!

Final score: Hawks 2.2.14 Oakleigh 1.2.8

U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

Another wet winter day for the U13 Yellow team, starting at 9am (better than the 8am it was going to be) but still a little early for some. The boys were ready to have a crack at the wet weather football in front of them and all the players on the bench really appreciated the Dragons Dressing Gowns Caz had for them.

We played hard and fought hard all game, the never give up attitude showed was evident. Even still being scoreless at three quarter time didn't stop the belief of the boys, who in the last quarter kicked 2 straight to finish 12 to 43 at the end of the game.

There were many great passages of play from our team that could have, but didn't quite result in a score. Also, the second and third efforts from players is one of the things we have been training and encouraging to do.

Teamwork was key and moving the ball forward at all opportunities was our play, we encouraged the boys to pick the ball up rather than kick it off the ground – this is something we will continue to work on.

U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Well that was a cold, wet and wintery morning at Caulfield Park this morning. An 8am kick off certainly tested everyone's mettle. For such an early start I thought the lads were reasonably switched on and ready to go. From the first bounce however we were second to the ball as AJAX ran to every contest giving them first access. We just didn't seem to get our hands dirty in the first half where AJAX made the most of their forward entries.

Oscar sprinted back and won a 2 on 1 contest in defence before feeding the ball to a teammate, Darcy R took a strong contested mark to stop an opposition goal whilst Aiden and Paul rebounded the ball across half back. Johnny continues to improve with his run and he's looking to hit targets regularly. Heath has settled in and provides grunt around the contest and we like the way Harrison played today. A real confidence booster as he competed hard all game. Troy,



Archie and Cam worked for their teammates and Will played his best game of the year which allowed us to bring him up the ground a little more.

We offered some clear directions for improvement at half time and we had a real response in the 3rd quarter. We turned it around and competed hard in and around the contest and got numbers to the ball. The difference was marked as we put on strong forward pressure resulting in a couple of goals. We saw a lift in the attack of Andrew and Cooper which helped our on ball press, Kaeleb kicked a nice goal and James held down the attacking defence. He is a real handy backline leader, so well done James. Tyler continues his improvement and just loves the contest whilst Tommy provides a nice balance when we can get him up the ground. Harland toiled hard all day in the ruck and across half back.

We gave the boys a real positive rev up at three quarter time after a great response - however we went back into our shells again and dropped our attack in the last quarter where AJAX ran out winners by 19 points. A bit of an up and down review as our third quarter was great but we really need to recognise and work on our attack and numbers around the ball.

We'll get back on the track and work on this during the week and look forward to the next game to improve.



Go Dragons

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Prime time under Friday night lights, we took on Cheltenham at our home ground. There was a buzz amongst the girls before the game as we were looking to win 3 on the trot. Whilst there is no doubt that these girls have improved out of sight, it was the little things that we made a point of this week. The pressure, the talk, the shepherds, and most importantly being the best teammate you can be.

We had plenty of the ball all game and it spent a lot of time in our forward line, to the point where we had to switch players from full back to give them a run to warm up! Once again the forward opportunities saw 2 more girls kick their first goals. The scoreboard ticked over for us all game and it looked to be a comfortable win until Cheltenham kicked the last couple of goals. Nevertheless, this was a well-deserved win from a group who refuse to give up, refuse to stop running. That's all us Coaches can ask for!

Well done again. Another superb team effort girls, with a few special mentions:

- Maddy C - awesome game, best Coach has seen from you! Played deep forward and kept the goal umpire busy.
- Sophie and Yana - congratulations on your first goals! Keep it up and enjoy all the support you're getting from the crowd!
- Sienna - another captain, another captain's game.
- Elaine - super game again, willed herself to many contests.



Keep it going girls, keep on improving and having fun!



U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played Mordi-Brae in wintery conditions at Scammell Reserve. Three home games in a row would seem a blessing, but the big ground does take it out of the players and the signs of fatigue were starting to show.

We had learned from the week before that in wet conditions you need to be willing to take possession of the ball and wear the tackles when they come. We did that and set up around the contest in a much better way. This resulted in us clearing the ball from contest more effectively and providing opportunities for our forwards. It was great that one of those benefitting from the way Ayden who celebrated his 50th game with a great goal in the opening quarter. We were again slightly slow getting going, but into the breeze we managed to lead at quarter time by 4 points.

The Seabrook twins were leading the way in the middle of the ground and up forward and Hunter was in everything, playing his best game of the year. It was also pleasing to see Noah, Elliott and Hamish putting themselves into the contest and winning the hard ball. We kept M-B scoreless in the second quarter and lead by 14 at half time.

The third quarter was an arm wrestle, we became a bit complacent in the last part of the quarter and allowed them to kick two goals to bring the margin back to 7 points at the last change.

In the last quarter we again kept M-B scoreless and ended winning by 22 points. It was a good win in difficult conditions. We can play better than this, but it was good to start the 'real' season with a convincing win.

Strangely, I'm looking forward to an away game this week and testing ourselves again before the first of the mid-year byes.

U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 1-4-10 Caulfield 3-3-21

We started the day with Eva Armatas celebrating her 50th game, well done Eva on such a special achievement, it's been a pleasure to coach you for many of those games, and see you develop as a footballer.

Coming up against a winless Caulfield we knew that they would come to play and that is exactly what Caulfield did. They say football is played between the ears and well done to Caulfield as they outsmarted and outmuscled us today. We just couldn't get any flow in our game.

Again the ever reliable Gracie popped up for her weekly goal. Jessica marked everything in the last line of defence. Izzy and Emily got plenty of the ball through the centre. Fiona and Chanel were our "tackling machines". And Charlotte played her best game of the year on the wing.



Heads up girls and let's look forward to our big Friday night game next week!!



U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

This round the Dragon's under 16's hosted Brighton Beach at the Dragon's den. The two teams have a rich history of competitive matches and fair play over the last couple of seasons and today shaped up to be another cracking match.

The Dragons entered the game with a full bench against Brighton's empty bench. The advantage of extra legs didn't seem to transfer to the field with Brighton kicking the first couple goals of the day to lead the Dragon's side at the first break.

The second term saw Oakleigh claw their way back into the game but were still unable to chisel out a lead. The match began to take a turn toward a bit of a slog fest with both sides attempting to clear the ball out of their defences. The first half could only be summed up as a frustrating affair with the Dragons still trailing at the main break.

After halftime, the game began to take a turn into more of an end-to-end sort of match. Though both sides were able to score a little bit more freely, Brighton Beach still looked firmly in control with a 5-goal lead going into the last term.

The final term saw a revitalised Oakleigh kick the first 3 goals of the quarter to bring the margin back to under two straight kicks. However, a determined Brighton beach began to lift their intensity and scored the next 3 goals of the game. Whilst Oakleigh had all the benefits of a full bench and the home ground advantage it proved inconsequential to the result with Brighton Beach running away by just under 5 goals. Whilst the team were disappointed with the result, they understand the season is long and sometimes an early loss can provide the tinderbox to ignite a flaming run of form much like the season previous.

Goals: Ryan (2), Mason (1), Archie (1), Tyrone (1), Theo (1)
Oakleigh 6.6 (42) Brighton Beach 11.11 (77)

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: Sandy/Rovers/ Highbury Away Game Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 24 points

We arrived at Boss James Reserve to find the ground in amazing condition after a day of rain. We were coming off a bye and had good numbers to choose from. It's a big difference from last year with 26 on the list compared to 20 last year.

It was a later start time (4.30pm) and the lights were required immediately. The home team, kicking to the scoring end, got a late goal in the first quarter to be 2 goals up. The ball was slippery, and the tackles were hard to stick, at times we may have overused the ball.

The 2nd quarter we scored 3 goals to one to be right in it at half time. The game was a great contest with some good attacking play and good defensive pressure. The third was an arm wrestle again and the difference was only 9 points at the last break. The home team got out the back of us a couple times early in the last quarter but to the boy's credit we wrestled back the momentum to be in striking distance again, unfortunately there was an injury delay (gratefully the opposition player looked to be ok) and our run faded. The home team got a few late goals to secure the win, once again we came away knowing we can mix it with any team in this division. We need to score quickly when we have the momentum.

Special mentions from the game:

- Great to see Big Billy back to his bustling best with a dominant display up forward kicking 4 goals and taking some big grabs on a wet day.
- Josh had a very good game kicking 2 goals and playing some great footy in the difficult high forward role.
- The midfield had a great tussle with a talented bunch. The rotations are starting to go well.
- Down back Xavier showed his class with some pinpoint kicking coming out defence. Aden kept his good year going.



- A massive tackle on centre wing by Jakey got the crowd to their feet.
- What a wonderful rainbow we saw during the game!

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

Go Dragons

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

Slippery conditions at Chadwick Reserve greeted us for the Round 6 clash with Mordi-Brae/Dingley. For the first time this year we had a full complement of 17 players which was terrific.

A great opening term saw us kick away to a 5 goal lead. The 2nd term was really even with the Dingoes holding us goalless for the quarter. Quarters 3 and 4 saw us run away with the game and keep the home team scoreless. The girls came away with a big win.

Our forwards got reward for effort today with Lauren kicking 5 goals and Ayla 3. Matisse also got a goal and Olivia Rossato's goal from an acute angle on the boundary line nearly got stuck between the goalposts! Ella, Lily G and Olivia J were all lively around the goals.

Our midfield gave us first use of the ball through Daisy, Freya, Matisse and Gisselle. Gecko and Lily F worked effectively through the midfield in the second half.



Our backline was great, ensuring the Dingoes remained scoreless for the day. Livvy, Tayla, Bridget and Chooty repelled their attacks and Clem got a black eye for her efforts.

Lauren was voted the best player by the opposition coach for her heroics in front of goal – well done Lozz!

A really great team effort with some pleasing passages of skilful play sprinkled amongst our trademark high pressure, hard-working, tackling game.





OAKLEIGH DRAGONS

Training Tops*

Available to purchase at
Scammell Reserve

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Thurs 01/06 4.30pm - 6.00pm

Sun 04/06 from 6.00pm

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*note this is an optional item





MEMORABILIA AUCTION

PRESENTED BY

WARWICK CAPPER

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SATURDAY 3/6 • 2:30

@SCAMMELL RESERVE

Finger food provided & drink at bar prices



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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

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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)					

