



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 8

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

Thank you to everyone involved in U12 & U14 Girls teams who helped supply a great feed for the Club on Sunday night and it was good to see the U14 Girls in the kitchen serving up. Great effort.

We are well and truly at the halfway mark of the season with one more round to go before the school holiday break and we get to bring the season home, after the school holidays, without the interruption of any public holidays. By now, with the regrading and adjusted divisions, most teams have found themselves with new opponents and we are all up for the challenge. We have played in almost every weather condition Melbourne can throw at us (except for snow). We've been up early, brave, cold, excited, possibly sunburnt and boots deep in puddles, or mud, and none of this has stopped us from showing up to training or our next match. Every player has given it their all for their team. That alone is the deep spirit of this Club. Keep up the great enthusiasm.

Tuesday night the Club had a visit from three Collingwood AFL players down at Princes Hwy, who spent some time with the U14 boys, U16 & U18 Girls and U18 boys. I hope that it was a worthwhile learning event for the players.

July is the season to be Grill'd... The Club has applied and been approved for the Local Matters Jars at Grill'd Chadstone. So if you have a Grill'd Awesome Effort award stuck on the front of your fridge, or you're looking for a night off cooking, July is the month to use it at our closest Grill'd store, Chadstone. When you order in store you'll be given a token to place in a Local Matters Jar. If our Club receives the most tokens during the promotion period our Club will receive up to \$500 from Grill'd. We will put this towards training balls and equipment for the coming season.

Have a safe round 9, enjoy your break and for the players who currently have injuries use the time to rest up and get well and we'll see you all back on July 16 for Round 10 and Grub hosted by the U16 & U18 Girls. Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

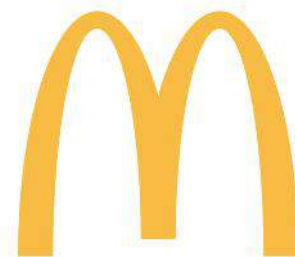
2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Kathy McGeoch
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Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
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Team Manager Coordinator: Jude Foster
First Aid Coordinator: Lindsay Armatas
Child Safety Officers: Sonya Moreland / Andrew Allan
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Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Tim Moreland
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
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Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

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Annelise Scott
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REMINDERS

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Please remember that if you have any concerns about game day issues, your first point of contact is your Team Manager or, depending on the nature of your grievance, the Committee.

Members are reminded that communication with the SMJFL must be via the Club, Members are not to contact the SMJFL directly.

Contact details for the Committee can be found on the Dragons website oakleighdragons.com.au or under the President's report in this newsletter.

TEAM BENCH

In addition to Players participating in the match, only the following Team Officials are permitted in the Team Bench area during a football match:

- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Trainer, and
- Runner

No other person - including Team Manager or Water Carrier - is permitted in the Team Bench area during the match.

MAGPIES SWOOPED IN TO TRAINING

Lots of excitement at training on Tuesday evening this week at Princes Highway, three Collingwood players, Brayden Maynard, Arlo Draper and Josh Carmichael, attended for a Q&A session. Our awesome Dragons teams, U14 Mixed, U16 Girls, U18 Boys and U18 Girls (all pictured below) were lucky enough to have a Q&A session with these three Collingwood players. What an amazing experience!





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Despite being undermanned and facing a strong away team, the kids performed exceptionally well over the weekend. Jayden's assistance in joining the team was greatly appreciated, allowing us to field a team. James Scott stood out with an outstanding performance, delivering his best game of the year.

The team exhibited relentless determination throughout the day, matching the effort of their opponents, St. Peters. The kids demonstrated great attitudes with all of them playing multiple roles throughout the day.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

The Team took on a tough opponent in St Bedes/Mentone in the muddy conditions. With a few boys missing from the side, we focused on their teamwork against a bigger opponent. I was proud of how the boys stuck together and worked hard though to the final siren.

It was another good game by Koby who was able to kick a couple of goals early and then provide some drive forward when moved into the mid field.

With Thien, Ari and Boyd all working hard though out the game to keep the ball moving forward. It was pleasing to see some of the younger boys getting involved with their competitive attack on the ball.

To their credit the boys work rate lifted after half time, and they were able to keep the opposition to one goal for the half. Great effort Dragons!

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a beautiful sunny morning we came up against Hampton Rovers at Scammell.

After a slow start, in the second and third quarters we had control of the game and we made the most of our opportunities. The pressure and effort was great from everyone in the team. The last quarter we were down on rotations and fresh players and this cost us the game.

Well done to James, Rishabh, Max M, Thommy M and Ethan on putting in solid performances. Max B and Maison played their best games for the year.

Well done to Greg (captain for the week), Marco, Kai, Ben, Tyler, Harvey, Archer, David, Thommy E and Henry on applying pressure all over the ground, gathering disposals and moving the ball well on all positions on the field. Thanks to Ollie from the Under 9's in helping us out to make 18 players for the day.

We are improving every week and we will continue to build on this at training.



U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

We travelled down to Beaumaris on a pleasant morning. Both teams had 14 players which resulted in a free flowing game. Our team put in an amazing effort which was extremely pleasing to see. We moved the team around a bit to challenge players in different positions.

In defence Eli was a tackling machine, Noah kept propelling the ball forward and Josh and Wyatt had their best games for the team.

Zoe was really strong in the ruck and the opposition coach acknowledged this by providing her with an encouragement award at the end of the game. Blake was very busy in the midfield, reading the play well and leading the team as captain. In the forward line Bronx and Seth were on fire kicking a goal each.

But the biggest cheer of the day came for Emily who took a great grab and kicked her first Dragons goal with a beautiful drop punt! What a thrill for the boys and girls, coaches and all the parents.

A special thanks to Nick (our umpire) and the Beaumaris umpire who did a fantastic job which was acknowledged in front of both teams at the end of the game.

Back at home this week where the team will no doubt put in another great performance.

Captains: Luke and Blake (pictured)



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

This week we played a strong side in East Malvern at their home ground in a very hard fought, close encounter. At training, we put lots of work into winning contested footy and being there to support each other, and the boys delivered in these areas today.

Co-Captains were Terrell and Finley and both played their roles well. We got off to a great start winning the ball out of the middle with Jonah passing to Karlos who then passed to Harrison C who went back and kicked truly. Unfortunately, it was our only goal for the day. In a scrappy affair, our boys controlled lots of the footy but struggled to make the right decisions in our forward 50.

It was an all-round team effort and I'm happy to report we had many standouts across the ground today. In defence, Alex was really strong attacking the ball and tackling hard. Matty and Masaki were also involved in several smart plays to intercept and halt the opposition attack.

Our running brigade of Jonah, Spyros, Karlos, Finn, Teddy and William didn't stop and big David and Phoenix gave great effort in the ruck while Zach kept crashing into packs to win the footy.

The opposition got their nose in front in the last quarter but our boys kept their heads up and kept pushing. We were able to move the ball forward late and put ourselves in a position to win but despite our best efforts, it wasn't to be. I know I can speak on behalf of the parents when I say we are all very proud of the boys. They stayed focused on the footy and supporting each other and if we keep doing that we'll always be able to hold our heads high.

Well done Dragons!
See you at training.



U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

This week we had the challenge of playing a new team down from Division 2, Ormond.

Playing at their home ground they got away to a quick start kicking the first goal but by quarter time we had our noses in front by a point, thanks to one of Sophia's 3 goals.

We were under siege in the second quarter as the wind picked up to the end Ormond were kicking. Semira was stoic all day back in defence sweeping onto her left boot and clearing the ball. Greta and Stella worked tirelessly, running the ball out of defence and laying attacking stopping tackles.

We were two goals down at half time but we found another level after the break. Jess started bursting out of the centre creating chances for our forwards, Olivia who played her best match of the season was super clean, picking the ball up off the ground and unlucky not to have kicked a couple of goals. Miette found her groove, effortlessly running away from the opponents and giving our forwards a chance to go to work.

Kiana was at her marking best, setting up chances for Lavinia and Tyra who kept trying to win the ball and locking it in our forward line.

At three quarter time we were down by 3 and with some great team work we got an early goal to get the early lead. Victoria's quick kick nearly trickled through for another score but bounced sideways and hit the point post, though you would've thought it was a goal with the crowd celebrations.

Bonnie and Ruby were in and under the packs all day, throwing themselves into contest after contest. It was anyone's game to win but ultimately with Ormond kicking with the wind in the last quarter we ran out of time and they ran away with the win 4-8-32 to 3-4-23.

We are improving and getting stronger week by week. A lot more good things to come for our girls this season.

U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

A lovely winter's day following a rainy night. The ground handled the wet very well and set the stage for what we expected to be a tough game.

We worked hard in the game with little result on the score board, but there were some positives to take out of the games, some good individual and team passages that show promise of things that are possible, plenty to work on in coming weeks to help continue every player's development.

With 8 of 15 home and away games completed, having just played one of two undefeated teams in our division and facing the undefeated ladder leader next week, this will continue to test our resilience and resolve. I am confident the boys will bounce back and show up with a fire in their belly and the desire to do their very best week in week out, no matter what happens.

One more game, then 2 weeks off with school holidays and well-earned breaks for all our boys and their families. Anyone going away for the school holidays, please stay safe and come back refreshed.



U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Today we took on Bentleigh-Highett at Highett in really good conditions considering the overnight rain. I'd like to thank Gary Ryan who provided a special theme before the game and the boys embraced it contributing to a great team effort all day. Our care for each other as a team allowed us to take out a strong win from a very good team. They have beaten us twice already this year.

James was a late withdrawal due to illness so we lost a solid defender before the first bounce. Some shuffling of the magnets saw Oscar and Troy move down back and they played solid footy all day. With Darcy R, Aiden and Paul locking down Bentleigh's forwards we mounted several defensive attacks all game. Our defence was miserly and rebounded for all 4 quarters with the help of Harland across half back and Cooper and Heath playing high defence roles. Well done lads - super effort. Heath and Harland also went forward and kicked goals from perfect positioning.

Harrison and Cam worked hard through the middle of the field whilst we thought Archie and Curtis provided several attacks on the ball which again contributed to forward press scores. Johnny continues to get better each game and Kaeleb was fantastic forward, kicking a couple of goals whilst providing strong attacks on the ball.

Andrew played a consistent game through the middle whilst Tommy and Tyler were outstanding on ball all day pumping repeated forward entries to compete for. Darcy M kicked 3 goals but more importantly set up 3 or 4 more by hitting targets inside our forward 50. Will was enormous in the ruck today. He just gets better and better so we look forward to the remainder of the year Will.

We saw a really consistent game today from the boys and they're playing some great link up football. What we saw today was a gel in teamwork and playing for each other which is exactly what we're after as coaches. What is also encouraging is I reckon we have a lot of improvement still left in us.

Really looking forward to our night game this week (Thursday) before we have a break for school holidays. As always - many thanks to all the parents and role helpers each week. We are forging a strong team on and off the ground. Many thanks!



Go Dragons

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

We played East Malvern on our home ground in cool and windy conditions. Knowing that East Malvern were winless coming into this game, at training we emphasised to the girls the importance of being good sports and should we win, to win with humility and grace.

The girls are now much more switched on pre-game which is what we like to see, ready to hit the game running. Another great first quarter start saw us kick 3 goals to none and that set the tone for the rest of the game, kicking goals in every quarter.

The half time scoreboard then allowed us to move a lot of the magnets around, giving girls the opportunity and experience of playing in different positions as to what they have been used to thus far. Another great developmental stage for this group.

In the end we ran out winners 61-8 with 12 behinds so it is a great run of form with these girls.



Goal kickers - Lucia 3, Sienna 2, Zoe 2, Izzy 1

Notables

- Cam - a tremendous game. 100% effort all day, tackled hard and responsible for play of the day, running at full speed at an opponent who had the ball and hit her with a shuddering tackle. Well done Cam.
- Maddy C - body on the line! Tackles, shepherds, bumps. That stuff doesn't go unnoticed.
- Misaki - turbo ran all day and keep putting the ball into the forward line. Keep running!
- Wingers and mids - well done with helping out the back line.
- Forwards - keep doing what you're doing!
-

Well done again girls. Another super team effort. Enjoy the bye and school holidays and bring it again next round!!!

U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played Cheltenham, one of the other undefeated teams in our grade at Scammell Reserve. This would be our first real test of the post grading season and that is how it turned out.

We bounced out of the blocks with a quick goal to Ari resulting from a great centre bounce clearance. But like good teams do, Cheltenham challenged us with two goals of their own. The quarter ended with us trailing by 7 points, despite having had the advantage of a slight breeze. Cheltenham started to get ascendancy in the midfield and had our backline under considerable pressure. But our backline, particularly Henry, Adam, Patrick, Lachie and Takoda worked hard to keep us in the game. We responded to going three goals down with a brilliant period before half time where Ari, Nathan and Oskar started to dominate and brought the margin back to three points at half time.

The second half was an arm wrestle with our opponents always maintaining a lead of around a goal. The last couple of minutes the ball was camped in our forward line but we could not get the goal we needed to get across the line and lost the game by 9 points.

We learned a lot from this game. We know our best is good enough and that if we get another chance to play Cheltenham, we can beat them. But for now, the loss has dropped us from top of the ladder to fifth. We need to bounce back next week and keep improving to be a chance to play finals in 2023.

U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

The U16 girls had a Bye this week.

U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

Oakleigh Dragons Under 16's vs East Sandringham Rovers

This round saw the Dragon's under 16's playing East Sandringham Rovers in Hampton. The match was to take place under lights and promised to be a close encounter.

The first term saw a very even affair with both teams struggling to take the ascendancy over the other. Whilst scoring was low, the match was played in an end-to-end fashion. The second term saw more of the same with both teams able to open the ground a little bit more and a lot more aggression in attack. Though the goals were hard to come by both teams were able to add to their tallies this term.



The second half began with a scoreless ten minutes met with attack and counterattack from both sides. Whilst Oakleigh's effort didn't dip, their efficiency going forward began to decline. Their opposition were able to gain a small lead going into the last break.

The final term saw both sides fired up and ready to roll the dice to win the game. Unfortunately, the Dragons outfit were unable to close the margin and the match ended with a close loss. With massive improvement from the weeks prior, Oakleigh can raise their heads high after that match and have gained a lot of confidence from the execution of new structures.

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: AJAX Away Game

Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 10 points

The Football Gods were smiling on us with a nice sunny day and Princes Park was in good condition for a tight tussle from 2 good teams. Our guys have been primed for this game and were ready to go. Our focus points for this game were to always compete and play the full 80 minutes.

We started extremely well kicking to the scoring end, with some good Oakleigh footy we were up by 4 goals at quarter time. AJAX got their game going and we were even at half time. We kicked 3 goals in the third to be up by that amount at the last break. Unfortunately, we were down to 17 men due to a yellow card, so we were up against it with AJAX kicking to the scoring end in the last quarter. The blokes played an outstanding last quarter, the ball was in our half for most of the quarter, and we kicked 1 goal six behinds to win the game by 10 points. It was our first win against this side and the team was pumped, the club song was sung with great enthusiasm. Well done to all the players, it's a win to be very proud of, thanks to everyone involved.

Special mentions from the game:

- "The Rockstar" - Elliot Black played his 100th game, congrats. He has been a real asset to the team since arriving a few seasons ago. He kicked 3 important goals (out of a total of 7) to sit 2nd on the league goal kicking list! A great young bloke who has got many friends at the Dragons. His family are heavily involved, with Rossy doing a great job as team manager, thanks.
- The midfield again played well with Oscar back to his best, Specky, Stevie, Pete, Borgy and Jimmy all working hard on a day we needed hard workers, great stuff
- A special mention to Jake who keeps improving and had a great day both forward and back.
- Joey down back read the ball well and marked it numerous times, Xav's attack on the ball was at an extremely high level and he continues to impress.
- A great team effort with everyone contributing. Our aim is to keep improving and we did this well.
- Don't forget Stitches and the Push up Boys with their charity endeavour. Please give where you can.

Another great result was the winner of the meat tray raffle at Grub at the Club – well deserved the Sturrock family! See all the players at training this week. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Go Dragons!



U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

This week we headed to Albert Park to play South Melbourne. The ground was pretty heavy and the wind was favouring the pavilion end.

The U16 Girls had a bye so we were able to borrow 5 players to top up our numbers. Thanks Sienna, Brianna, Nat, Bonnie and Ruby for playing with us - you all did a great job.

A very even first quarter resulted in no scores to either team. The Bloods got one goal in the second term and despite dominating the 3rd quarter, our girls were only able to get 4 behinds.

With only a few points in it a 3 quarter time, a few forays into the forward line didn't result in any additional score for us and the home team were able to add another goal to their tally.

Sienna got lots of possessions and drove us forward all day. Daisy dominated the ruck and Lily F was busy across half back. Gecko was solid on the last line of defence and Chooty had another good game repelling the ball from the back line. Matisse played a really good first half before having to leave for netball commitments.

Overall it was a very even game. It was great to see our tackling and pressure on show all day, and when we were able to mark the ball we created some link up play that was good to watch. Keep up the good work and let's see how much fun we can have in the second half of the season!



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



MEAT RAFFLE WINNER



Congratulations to Phil Sturrock for winning the meat tray raffle after 27 years (estimated) of trying. A visibly emotional Phil gratefully accepted the prize from a visibly underwhelmed John, saying that the \$7,000 (estimated) he's spent on unsuccessful raffle tickets has finally paid off!



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



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.



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)					

