



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 9

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

As we head into the school holiday break, I want to thank everyone for their efforts so far this season. All the players for giving it their best, all the team officials for their commitment to training & game days and the parents who help get our players on the field every week. There have been early starts, Thursday and Friday night matches and the odd late finish on a Sunday afternoon too. You've all done an amazing job.

The Club was recently successful in getting reimbursement from Rotary for the replacement cost of our defibrillator. If you are around on Sundays, please head on over to the Oakleigh Sunday Market and grab yourself a bargain, some flowers for Mum or a donut (or three). Thanks Rotary for the support.

Congratulations to the following milestone players this past week:

- Chanel Di Rienzo - 50 Games.
- Choetso Cohen - 50 Games
- Elliot Black - 100 Games

We'll be back for Grub on 16 July hosted by the combined U16 & 18 Girls teams, to start us off for the run home to the end of the season. The U9's only having 4 rounds until their Lightning Carnival! So don't forget to grab your footy and head down to Scammell or your closest park for a kick during the holidays and keep up the skills.

Have a safe holiday break.

Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips  
President

# GO DRAGONS

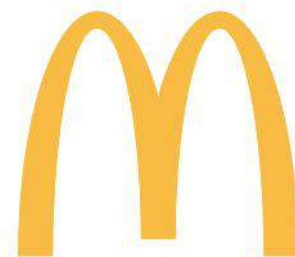
### 2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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

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

General Committee:  
Annelise Scott  
Justin Scott  
Sonya Moreland

## 2023 MAJOR SPONSORS



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



## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Chanel Di Rienzo, U16 Girls

Having a milestone game?

Send details and photo to Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)



### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Choetso Cohen, U18 Girls

Having a milestone game?

Send details and photo to Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)







# THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 9

ROUND 9 / SUNDAY 25 JUNE

## CONGRATULATIONS

Elliot Black, 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)





## REMINDERS

### CLUB REMINDER

Player conduct is the responsibility of the Coach. If Coaches see a player conduct themselves in a way that is not representative of our club culture, coaches need to take action, and send a message to the player, or bring them off the ground and speak to them themselves, calm them down, remind them of the way in which we should play, for enjoyment and being fair and respectful.

Team Managers are responsible for spectator behaviour. If spectators are becoming loud and abusive they must be spoken to and advised their behaviour is not appropriate. If they are too close to the bench and disrupting the coaches and players with a negative influence they must be asked to move away.

If there is an incident during a game that can be resolved on the day by the team officials, it should be resolved. If our players have been too rough, have let their frustrations get the better of them, own it and get them to apologise. This is a junior sport that should be enjoyable for all and we want to uphold a reputation as a club with high standards and professional conduct. This is the best way for us to attract and maintain high calibre members, and maintain our family friendly status. Swearing at other officials from other teams is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the club.





**PLEASE REMEMBER**

**THIS IS A GAME**

**THE PLAYERS ARE CHILDREN**

**THE UMPIRES ARE HUMAN**

**THE COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS**



## GET BEHIND US!

Congratulations to the players from the U18 Boys team for an amazing fundraising effort for Lifeline, raising over \$1,500 during the Push-Up Challenge!

It's not too late to donate, you can still head to  
[www.thepushupchallenge.com.au/fundraiser/oakleighdragons](http://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au/fundraiser/oakleighdragons)

We're so proud of the boys for taking on the initiative to raise funds and awareness for mental health. An amazing way to live out our club motto 'Through Football Better Citizens'.





## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Once again outnumbered our boys battled away in awful ground conditions at Princes Highway. Probably not our best day due to tough conditions, but I was very proud of our ability to turn it around in the second half.

James Scott played an incredibly selfless role which continued his improvement across the year- enjoy the break and come back with recharged batteries.

### U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

This week the team travelled down to Elwood to take on St Kilda City. With a strong wind favouring one end of the ground, this was the team's first game in these sort of conditions. The team was well led by our Co-Captains for the Day Krishiv and Jack.

While it took the team some time to adapt to the conditions, there were some great passages of play, where the boys focused on kicking the ball long and making second and third efforts that resulted in Goals.  
Great effort boys enjoy your break.

### U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a cold and windy morning we faced St Kilda City at Elwood Park.

Well done to Marco (captain for the week) on winning the toss and we kicked with the wind in the first quarter. It seemed like a 4-5 goal wind and even though we started well we probably didn't make the most of our opportunities with Marco, Maison, James, Max B, Ethan and Ollie being good targets in the forward line.

The opposition knew the conditions well and made the most of their opportunities and that was the difference in the end. Everyone tried their best and the pressure was great for all four quarters.

Well done to Greg, Thomas E, Kai, David, Ben and Archer on putting in solid performances.

Well done to Max M, Thommy M, Anastasios, Tyler, Rishabh and Deon on holding the defence together and combining well together to move the ball through the zones.

Hope everyone has a good break and let's aim to finish the season off strong in a few weeks' time.



## U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

We were back at home this week playing in windy conditions. We only had 13 players but a big thank you to Will, Lucas and James who helped out from the under 9's to get us to 16.

Our team put in a spirited performance but unfortunately went down narrowly.

Cameron was prolific in the forward line kicking 3 goals and Darwell dominated the midfield. Great to see Hugh's training track from concert to game day with a solid performance.

Captains: Thomas and Luke (pictured).



## U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Highett at their home ground on a proper Melbourne winter day this week. We had no bench due to holidays so the boys all had to dig deep for 4 quarters.

Spyros and Finn were Co-Captains and both ran their hearts out leading by example. From the get go we could see that the opposition really came to play. We were caught off guard and on the back foot early, really struggling to match their energy and effort in the first half as they kicked out to a 4 goal lead.

We started to play some strong contested, high pressure 'Dragons footy' in the 3rd quarter with all the boys tipping. Finn Thomson played an inspirational Quarter with multiple repeat efforts while slotting through 3 goals to keep us in the hunt. The 4th quarter was an arm wrestle and despite all the boys lifting, it was too little too late and we couldn't reel them in so went down by a couple of goals. Worth noting that we also had solid contributions across the ground from Ambrose, Jonah, Alex and Masaki.

The lesson learned for the boys was to never take the opposition lightly. We must always respect any opposition and put in for 4 quarters to earn a win.

## U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

In the words of Shane Crawford "That's what I'm talkin about!!"

This week we played one of the strongest teams in our division, Port Melbourne Colts and we got our mojo back after a sluggish performance last week.

We were back to our creative best, with our breathtaking run and carry, sweeping attacks down the wings and ferocious tackling all done with smiles on our faces.

We played some of the girls in different positions today, Stella went forward and was creating chaos for the Port defence with her run and unselfishly hand balling to her sister Victoria who kicked the teams' first goal for the morning and her first goal for the Dragons.

Kicking with the wind our backline didn't see much of the ball in the first quarter but that all changed in the second, we were under siege.





Our backs were reliable as ever, Semira marking anything in her area and breaking clear with her raking left foot kicks. Lavinia went into the backline and laid a goal stopping tackle. Ruby even floated back and took a great mark. Port kicked two amazing dribble goals from the boundary and went into half time with a 7 point lead.

The third quarter we did all the attacking, Sophia fighting hard in the ruck and around the ground, Jess bursting out of the congestion with her willingness to get the ball moving forward. Bonnie was great up forward, her tough tackling locking the ball up our end of the ground. When Port thought they were out, our intelligent halfback Greta was there cutting off everything before they had a chance to get the ball moving. Kiana and Olivia kept getting the ball deep into our forward line and Miette was unstoppable with ball in hand but we were only able to kick two behinds though we keep Port scoreless.

Five points down and kicking to the end which no team had scored all day was going to be a tough task and Ruby bravely wanted to play after going off in the third quarter after a big hit.

Our effort was amazing to watch, our mids running back to help the backline and even after Port scored and got out to a 13 point lead we didn't give up and we created our best team goal of the season. It all started when Semira picked up the ball on the goal line and decided not to rush it through and ran off kicking long to the wing to get our run going, Jess broke free and with some quick hand balls from Ruby and Stella, we were off, Miette got the ball down to our goal sneak in Victoria who ran confidently and kicked truly keeping our hopes alive. We kept on pushing forward but Port ran out winners 3.4.22 to 2.3.15

In what was our best match of the season I couldn't have been prouder of the girls.



## U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

A cold early game at Como Park for the second time this season, I for one am pleased we don't have to go there again this year.

Firstly, I would like to thank our special guest Coach who came down to help this week – my eldest Son, Ethan offered to put a training plan together and run it Wednesday night with Chris and I assisting him, and I am sure the boys liked listening to someone closer to their own age, more than the parents they have been listening to all year.

I am not sure if it was the different voice of Ethan during the week, or the boys just wanted to throw everything at the opposition and "HAVE A CRACK" this week, but "HAVE A CRACK" they sure did. The excitement on the side lines was contagious with everyone from the Dragons cheering on every good bit of play the boys did. And there was so much to cheer about. We said before the game – the score doesn't matter one bit, so I am not even going to comment on that here. All I will say though is the coaching group were so proud of the way the boys went about the game – they gave everything they had, and Prahran knew that our boys had come to play football.

Unfortunately, there were a few players out to sickness on Sunday morning and we hope they recover quickly so they can enjoy the school holidays.

No training this week for our boys, but we will get back into it in the second week of the school holidays, giving us a few training runs prior to our next game.

For the remainder of the season, we have 6 more games, and we play every team, in our division one more time (except Prahran) so we get the chance to 'HAVE A CRACK' at each of them, like we did this week.

Enjoy your holidays and remember, keep a football in your hands while you are away. Go Dragons!



## U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

What a great opportunity for the boys to play a Thursday night game this week. We took on AJAX at Moorleigh Reserve, Bentleigh and under lights to take out a 17 point win. This sees us on top of the ladder for the time being and I reckon with a lot of development in the tank. It was great to see other Dragons at the game cheering on the boys so many thanks to all those who came along.

It was a cold night but the rain stayed away which was a bonus. Curtis was a late withdrawal so we shuffled some magnets around to balance the team. Our first quarter was electric where we played about 90% in our forward half. Tommy, Andrew and Tyler were great out of the middle which resulted in Kaeleb, Archie, Harrison and Troy capitalising on our forward set ups.

We're really impressed how the boys are implementing our fast paced hands out method and they didn't let up with this all game. The opposition provided some resistance in the remaining 3 quarters and at times, it became an arm wrestle on a big ground. AJAX edged within 5 points in the last quarter but our boys kept at our game style and a couple of late goals sealed the game for us.

Cameron and Cooper patrolled up and down the ground whilst Oscar, Paul and Aidan were hard to get past in our defence. Well done lads! Johnny and Heath have settled in well and look dangerous whilst James and Will continue to impress in their roles across the ground. Harland provided multiple attacks from defence and through the middle and Darcy M always looked dangerous up forward as he tried to shake a persistent tag.

Darcy R had his best game this year and not only took a couple of terrific contested marks, kicked his first goal of the year as well. Well done Darce!

Well the first half of the year has flown by and we now take a break for school holidays. Re-charge the batteries, stay safe and we look forward to returning in a couple of weeks.



## U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

The Under 14 Girls had a Bye this week.

## U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played against: Hampton At: Castlefield Reserve

We played Hampton in our last game before the school holiday bye rounds. With six players on the injured list and several playing through injury, this was a danger game for us. The conditions were difficult, with a strong breeze blowing across the ground and rain threatening.

For large parts of the game it looked like we would not be able to match Hampton's intensity. Despite making accountability a key focus for the day, we had too many players willing to let their direct opponent run off them with little or no attempt to chase them down. If it wasn't for the efforts of our defenders, particularly Adam, Takoda and Lachie we may have lost the game in the first half. But they held firm and as the game wore on our midfielders started to get on top.

Josh was getting in first for the ball and Nathan, Campbell and Oskar were providing the forwards with plenty of opportunities to score. But we could not put those efforts on the scoreboard. It took until the last quarter for the second half dominance in possession to show results. Josh went forward and kicked two important goals at a time when everyone else was struggling to master the wind. We kept them scoreless for the quarter and the final score was an 8



point win, with the result being exactly that.....4.12.36 to 4.4. 28. We had another couple of players injured during the game so the result was one of merit despite being one that gave the coach heart palpitations.

We now have a couple of weeks off to take a breath, get everyone fit to play and prepare for the last 6 games. We are just inside the four and our next game is against the fifth placed Murrumbidgee/St Pauls....a classic 8 point game. As I seem to say every week we must keep improving to have a chance to play finals in 2023.



## U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 2-4-16 South Melbourne 2-4-16  
Brrrrrrrr!! Apart from the chilling air and windy conditions Scammell was actually a great surface for footy today. With 5 girls away we called on Sienna, Serana, Millie and Zoe to help out from the under 14's and they all played exceptionally well.

As the score shows there was nothing to split us from our opponents today we had patches of play where it came together and we looked great. Oakleigh played their best football in the 3 quarters where we tackled, marked, kicked accurately and showed heaps of finesse, it was a pleasure to watch.

I was extremely proud of everyone's efforts today. None more so than Natalie Carbonaro, her dominance out of the backline was phenomenal. And of course we can't forget the brilliant Chanel Di Rienzo who played her 50th game in style today. Enjoy the break ladies.





## U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

This round saw the Dragons travelling to the 'Beena arena' to take on cross town rivals, Murrumbeena. The stage was set for a close encounter with a decisive breeze blowing across the ground. Oakleigh started hot with the breeze behind them and were able to keep Murrumbeena goalless in the first term while piling on a few majors of their own. The second term saw Murrumbeena capitalise on the strong wind advantage. Halftime saw both teams within a goal of each other and guaranteed a very tight second half. The premiership quarter saw the Dragons pile on a flurry of goals with the wind behind them. The Dragons played free flowing and exciting footy to capitalise on the wind advantage.

The final term saw the Dragons kicking into the very same breeze that helped them forge ahead. Murrumbeena were also able to capitalise on this advantage and edge back the score. However, decisive defence saw the Dragons able to hold onto the lead and end the game as victors. Whilst the game had some nervous moments in the dying stages; Oakleigh were able to play out the game with a strong team performance that saw them claim the four points.



## U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Scammell was in great condition for the 9th round of the season, however the (cold) wind, going towards the golf course was going to play a factor. We stressed to the team during the week to be on time and the guys did a great job compared to the last few weeks, thanks. We played a team who we have built a rivalry with, and several of our current group had played there so there was more than the 4 points on the line.

We lost the toss and started kicking against the wind, this was probably our best quarter as we ran and delivered the ball well to score 5 goals to 3, this set up the game for us. The second quarter we kicked with the swirling wind and we controlled the possession to kick 3 goals 4 to no score. We tried hard to continue to hit targets and lower the eyes going into attack, we took a comfortable lead to half time. The second half saw us link up well and play some good footy, a couple of times, thanks to great switches of play, we were able to cover the length of the ground easily without the opposition touching it. We go into the break with 3 wins and 1 loss in a good position to attack the second half of the year.



Special mentions from the game:

- The ex St Peter's boys Stevie (3 goals), Pete (2 goals) and Jezza (1 goal) all had wonderful games and looked as though they enjoyed it.
- JD, Bailey and Sammy H performed strongly with great dash and some wonderful team play.
- The 100 gamer Elliot, crashed through the banner to great fanfare and got on the scoreboard again with 2 goals.
- Down back Joey took control, and the backline was hard to get past. Well done to Seth who was fantastic and is showing some real improvement for a player in his first ever season, in a strong side.
- Borgy went into the midfield and was good with his pace and clean possession. Oscar went forward and kicked 2 great snaps, one on his right and one on his left from the boundary to via for goal of the year with Stitches.

I had family members pop in to see the game and a positive thing they said was it looks as though the guys are having lots of fun. That is certainly our goal. See all the players at training this week. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Go Dragons

## U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

Artic wind greeted us at Scammell as Choetso ran through the banner to celebrate her 50th game with the Dragons.

Our opponent this week was top of the ladder Bentleigh/St Peters. We knew it was going to be a tough day at the office when the visitors kicked a goal in the first minute of the game.

The strong wind proved to be an advantage all game with all the scoring being done at one end. Our defence held up well and only conceded 4 more goals for the rest of the game.

It was good to have Bridget back in the side and her long kicking was important. Lily F was solid at Centre Half Back and Gecko's kick outs were consistent once again. Matisse and Giselle were side stepping through the centre and Taylor played her best game across half back taking a number of intercept marks, tackling and kicking us forward. Thanks Chanel, Ebony and Charlotte from the U16s for filling in – not the nicest weather to be playing 2 games of footy in. Enjoy the school holidays girls! Let's regroup in a couple of weeks and finish off the season strongly. Go Dragons!







## 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



## 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



## 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)					

