



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 12

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

Our Club is more than Football. We do it for the Club first, this is what we are built on and what the Club lives and breathes with "Through Football better citizens". We have all seen the tragic accident to Cameron Wales, brother to Lucy and Steph (ex-Dragons and current AFLW players), and their Go Fund Me page. Oakleigh Dragons have committed \$5000 towards this and we also asked the SMJFL to match our donation, which they have. We'd like to thank both Simon Gorr, SMJFL Board Member, and Matthew Brown SMJFL CEO for their efforts in gaining approval from the whole SMJFL Board to support a family that has given so much to the Dragons. We are very appreciative of the support from the SMJFL, we are sure the family will be also.

A reminder to Coaches to start looking to Season '24. Locking in Coaches now for the next season will be the best chance of retaining as many players as possible and/or attracting more with good feedback from your players within their friend group. We will start locking in some Coach catch-up sessions shortly. If anyone is interested in coaching next year, or becoming a Development Coach, please let me know and I can put you in touch with the correct person.

Congratulations to Spencer Guzzo on a milestone 50 Games for the U16 Boys. Well done!

U14 Boys hosted a great Grub and it was good to see all present boys helping out with clean up and pack up duties. Well done Ross McCulloch on the Meat Tray win and on your birthday too. You have to be in it to win and last week's meat try was the biggest ever, so get your tickets to the next one on 13 August, when the U18 Boys host the penultimate Grub for Season '23.

Good Luck to both U9 teams this week in their last Home and Away match of the season before their Lightning Carnival.
Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

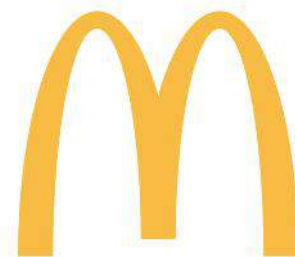
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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

Spencer Guzzo, U16 Boys

Having a milestone game?

Send details and photo to Kathy at complianceOYCFC@gmail.com



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





REMINDERS

GAME DAY FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

While members are free to take photos of children when playing in public spaces during the game, we kindly request that filming games on mobile phones be avoided. Filming can be unintentionally intimidating to some, and can be inflammatory for opposition sides.

If you do wish to film for training purposes, please consult with your Team Manager or the Club in the first instance. Respectful recordings of game celebrations remain welcome!



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

There are just a couple of Rounds left for 2023, but the Committee is already looking ahead to next season. We have a number of Committee vacancies coming up, with kids aging out of junior football, and support is needed from younger age groups. The Committee is a great way to help shape your kids' football experience, and a fantastic way to get involved in your community! Come along to a Committee Meeting or contact a current member to see how you can help in a role, big or small!

SEASON 2024



ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

For more information:

secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com

COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Finally some nourishment for our boys after a bit of a drought in that perspective. We've focused on our process and how we want to play but after heartbreak last week it was great to see the lads get the reward.

The boys showed incredible grit and fight late on which I was so proud of. The boost of having a full team and bench for the first time since Round 1 was a massive boost for the lads as well.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

We hosted Black Rock at Princes Highway Reserve for the second time this year with the first encounter being a contest against two evenly match teams. We welcomed back a couple of the boys missing last week and with a close to full side were excited by the opportunity.

In breezy conditions towards one end, it was always going to be important which team could best utilise the wind to their advantage. We started the game strongly with the wind holding the opposition scoreless and taking a nice advantage in a quarter time with Koby hitting the scoreboard twice.

At quarter time we spoke about ensuring our efforts didn't drop away to ensure that we defended well against the wind, however Black Rock were able to use the conditions slightly better and take advantage of a couple of costly turnovers in our back half to take a lead into halftime.

The premiership quarter was always going to be vitally important for us to edge our noses back in front, and I couldn't fault the boy's efforts however to the opposition's credit they were able to hold up well into the breeze.

The boys should be extremely proud at their efforts not only on the weekend but throughout the year, fronting up every week maintaining a positive attitude to continue developing.

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a beautiful morning, we faced St Bedes Mentone at Princes Highway.

There was a strong wind going one way, Max B and Maison (joint captains for the week) unfortunately lost the toss and we kicked against it in the first quarter. This didn't matter as the other team didn't score and we scored ourselves. This put us in a strong position for the rest of the game and we sang the song loud and proud for the 3rd week in a row.

Well done to David, Thommy E, Archer and Ben on putting in solid performances and Ethan was a good target up forward and ended up with a handful.





The pressure was there from the beginning and the boys are playing well as a team and everyone contributed. The ball was moving well all over the ground with Max M, Thommy M, Deon, Harvey, Tyler, James, Rishabh and Kai contributing and doing their best in the varying positions they played.

Well done by everyone and a great team effort. Go Dragons.

U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

Our team put in a solid performance at Waverley park hawks. Unfortunately we fell short by a couple of goals. Great effort by our captains for the day Wyatt and Charlie (pictured).

A big thanks to Will and James from the under 9's who helped us out.

Looking forward to next week's game.



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

Today we played ladder leaders Murrumbena at their home ground on the main oval. It was always going to be a challenge as we had some key players out with illness so only fielded 17 players while the opposition had a full side.

Co-Captains were Ambrose and Karlos and both boys gave plenty of run and drive around the ground.

We started strong and competed well early but towards the end of the first quarter the boys started to tire and the opposition piled on some late goals. We found it very difficult to score as we were a man down in the forward line.

Masaki tried hard all day and was a rock down back making many important intercepts. Jonah was our best on ground with his relentless run and Dave toiled hard in the ruck.

Special mentions to Cameron, Leo, Teddy and Spyros for lifting in the 2nd half.

Despite the deficit, the boys never gave in and played right to the final siren but were beaten by the better team on the day.



U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

The U12 Girls played away to the Bentleigh Demons in windy conditions knowing a win would take them up to third spot and into finals contention. Having already beaten the Demons twice this season, hopes were high and with 14 players available for the first time this year the team was buzzing.

We started well with plenty of forward pressure generated by decisive runs from midfield by Olivia, Ruby and Miette. Up front, Skye, Vicki and Kiana peppered the goal but struggled with the swirling breeze as we kicked four straight behinds for the quarter. In the second quarter we were kicking directly into the wind and added another behind before Sophia finally snagged the major that we deserved to give us an 11-1 lead at half time. As the second half wore on, the feeling that the footy Gods weren't with us grew. We pressed constantly, adding two more behinds just to see the Demons snag an ugly goal to close the gap to 6 points. Still we pressed, Jess back in the team, after her holiday, ran tirelessly in the midfield but we just couldn't put the points on the board.

In the final quarter with a fierce wind behind them, the Demons came at us. Our backline stood firm for most of the quarter with Semira having a stand out game at full back but with a few minutes left on the clock the Demons scored a goal and worst still a last minute behind to secure a cruel one point victory.

That's footy though, the best team doesn't always win and there were plenty of positives for us to take out of the game. Tyra, our captain for the day had her best game for the club, Ruby T played her first ever game of footy and there were some fantastic defensive contributions from Bonnie, Stella, Greta and Lavinia. The ladder is incredibly tight and there is still everything to play for in the last three games. Bring on next week.

U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

Round 12 - V Cheltenham at Le Page Park

Sun was shining, but the wind was cold and quite strong – we started into the wind, and they got a jump on us kicking with the wind and capitalised.

The second quarter was an arm wrestle with just 2 points being kicked, and the third quarter we kicked our first goal (and the first goal to be kicked into the wind, which was a fantastic team effort).

The last quarter, we had our chances, but couldn't quite capitalise on the opportunities.

As Chris said in his Grub speech Sunday night, we are about doing everything possible to help every single player be a better footballer at the end of the season than when they started the season.

I hope every single player and their families see the improvements that the boys are showing and encourage them to keep working on things on and off the track. We are committed to the players' improvement as footballers and young men.



U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

We were finally back at our home base for the first time in ages with an early start to kick us off against AJAX. There was a lot of organising going on behind the scenes, as due to injury, we only had 14 players. With Will, Harland, Curtis, Paul R, Troy and Tyler out with injury/illness we drew upon the U13 Yellow team to have Liam A and Jaron play with us. Thanks to Dave for organising and both the boys played important roles for the team. Well done boys!

For the most part, our game style was off today as we fumbled often and fell back into old habits. We didn't use our hands from contests as we train for and struggled to look (and hit) at targets when needed. We certainly had patches of effort and drive which probably kept us in the game even though we were down a couple of goals at half time.

Our backs tried to repel opposition attacks with Oscar, Aiden, Cam and Darcy Ryan in amongst the contest whilst Harrison and Johnny ran hard across the ground. James showed good leadership in defence whilst Archie, Cooper and Andrew roamed through the middle of the ground helping their team mates with run and carry. Tommy controlled the centre with pressure and Heath continues to improve his aerial contests resulting in a nice third quarter goal.

With a few taller players out, Kaeleb rucked hard for most of the day and his marking just gets stronger and stronger. We were struggling to keep in the contest and with a couple of minutes to go we were down a couple of goals. The boys were working really hard when Darcy M snapped a tricky right foot snap from deep in the pocket and with less than a minute to go, added a left foot snap after bursting out of a forward pack to draw the game.

The boys showed great character to get the game back with a drawn result. Given the improvement we can have and need, it was very pleasing to know we're not going to give in. Knowing what we can do with a full team, we're excited for what's next in our game. As coaches - we know what we need to work on and we'll certainly be addressing this as the weeks continue.

Go Dragons



U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Today we played St Bedes/Mentone on a beautiful, sunny, early morning at their home ground. It's been a good rivalry between these two teams, with St Bedes/Mentone having 2 wins and Oakleigh Dragons having won once. The girls started exactly as I asked them to, bringing some great pressure in the first quarter and not conceding any goals.

Unfortunately, we were unable to score any goals ourselves, and this ultimately resulted in a loss today. This team has lived up to this month's motto of "Try something new", with different positions and strategies being used every week. We will keep our heads up and focus on the last couple of home and away matches, play to our strengths, and support each other as we've done all season.

Special mentions:

Tash – fantastic game sense, always putting yourself in the right place to receive the ball and support your teammates.
Misaki – a well-deserved award from the opposition team, running non-stop the entire game.

U14 MIXED **MARCUS SPENCER**

We played against: Beaumaris At: Scammell Reserve

We had a comprehensive win against Beaumaris. The score line of 67-10 looks impressive, but it was not one of our better performances.

Our opponents started the game with 15 players so we were able to have 17 on the field. We started the game kicking with a strong breeze (3-4 goals) but we fell into bad habits early. Rather than play team football and use our numbers advantage, we played self-centred football that resulted in a huge number of stoppages.

On a quarter by quarter basis we were quite consistent, outscoring the opposition by 15, 13, 17 and 12 points in each. We scored 4 goals 10 behinds when kicking with the wind and 5 goals 3 behinds when kicking against the wind. That is a reflection of the desire of individuals to try to score themselves when we kicked with the wind, regardless of their position on the field.

There were positives however. James played well across the backline and Sam was again important carrying the majority of the ruck load. Nathan mopped up everything behind the ball and Jeremy started to get his hands on the footy. Campbell played another great game in the middle and Patrick also finished with a couple of good goals.

This week represents an early 'Grand Final' for us. If we can beat second placed Dingley on their ground, we are still a chance to make finals. If not, we are likely to miss out. Looking forward to seeing how the boys respond to the challenge.





U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 4-2-26 Cheltenham 6-2-38

We unluckily didn't get the win today but our intensity and endeavour at the ball was awesome. We went into the game with a full list of 19 players, something that hasn't happened for weeks!! The girls played great football today. We were strong on all our lines and it showed as we kicked our second highest score of the year. If it wasn't for two particularly freaky goals from Cheltenham, it could have easily been a win for us.

Well done to Natalie Carbonara with her best on ground performance. Emily and Sienna again had heaps of the ball. Bonnie, Gracie, Emily and Brianna all chipped in with goals. Taylor and Sophie played great games with relentless pressure and attack on the ball. Ebony and Fiona also contested all day but the most satisfying thing is that everyone put in today and I couldn't have asked for anything more.

U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

This round saw the Oakleigh Dragons under 16's hosting rivals Prahran at the Dragons Den for the Grand Final rematch. Both sides needed no additional motivation with much of the season coming down to this match.

Oakleigh started this match kicking into the breeze and did exceptionally well to limit Prahran's scoring with the wind advantage. Both sides fought hard in the first term to gain the ascendancy. A tense first term saw the Dragons trailing by 2 goals.

The second term saw the Dragons capitalise on the wind advantage with back-to-back goals to start the quarter. Though Oakleigh were able to increase the pressure, Prahran held onto a slim lead.

Both sides emerged from the half time break motivated to finish the game on top. Prahran were able to pile on the pressure with numerous back-to-back goals, but Oakleigh were able to hang in, only trailing by 3 goals.

The final term was hotly contested with both teams aware of what was on the line. Oakleigh managed to have several opportunities to take the lead but were unable to edge in front. A couple of contentious calls saw the Dragons end the game trailing by 4 goals adding to the two teams' rich history of close finishes.

Though the result didn't go the way of the Dragons, they showed enormous fight and determination not to roll over in this game and they were able to play the 'white knuckle' footy they have become known for.

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: Waverley Park Hawks Away Game

Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 14 points

A big congratulations to our team members who have been able to play in the under 19s with the Oakleigh Krushers on Saturday - this week we had Jacko and Oscar play their first game, Pete played his 4th game. The others who have played in the u19s are Stevie, Tommy H, Jimmy, JD, Specky and Xavier. Also, Xavier has played 2 games of senior football with them. It's great to see these young men developing and testing themselves against the older guys.

This week we ventured to Columbia Park to take on our rivals The Hawks, both teams were sitting in the top 4 so it was going to be a tough game. Unfortunately, we had 5 out and a few of the team a bit sore. The mood in the rooms was a bit quiet prior to the game, we were up against it a little. There was strong breeze going across the ground which made things interesting.

We started slowly and had to work hard to get in front by quarter time, the opposition was working well and have some talented players that we needed to combat. The second quarter we kicked to the scoring end and had a good quarter to lead by 17 points at the main break. They came out and kicked a goal in the first 30 seconds, so it was Game on.

As a team we are getting better at stopping a team's momentum, but we do have lapses in concentration that let opposition teams into our games. The higher standard we play the more we must realise that we need to be on our game for the full 80 minutes. They hit the lead for a few minutes until we kicked one late in the quarter and went to the break with a 5-point buffer. The response by the midfield was very pleasing, we started to get the footy out of the middle and drove the ball forward. We kicked 3 goals to 1 in the last quarter to win by a couple of goals. It was a tense and exciting match. Due to the conditions, it wasn't the cleanest possession match, but it was certainly a good contest and a good win by the guys. We discovered that we now head the leader board, but it's an incredibly tight contest for a finals birth. There are 4 teams directly below us, only one game behind.

Special mentions from the game:

- A very even effort with everyone playing their role
- Billy was fantastic and a real presence up forward, with great help from Sammy I, Josh and of course Elliot who keeps kicking multiple goals each week. Josh's snap was one of the goals of the year.
- The midfield - especially when the game was on the line was a very pleasing performance. Some instinctive handballing from Tommy and Stevie was exactly what we are wanting.
- Down back Aden was impossible to beat, he was well supported by Joey (having a great year), Jake, Luca, Stitches, Lachie and Seth.
- Borgy is spending more time on the ball and moving well. Pete and Oscar are playing good footy.

We have 3 games to go, we are not guaranteed a finals spot yet so next week is very important. See all the players at training this week. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Go Dragons



U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

After 2 wins on the trot away from home, it was back to Scammell this week to take on the East Malvern Knights.

We decided to try something different this week and all of the girls got green and yellow ribbons to put in their hair.

Conditions were dry and sunny, but the wind was strong and favouring the golf course end of the ground. Fortunately we could borrow Sophie, Eva and Bonnie from the U16s to top up the team to 18 players.

The game was a real arm wrestle which saw the Dragons leading 4 points to 2 at half time. The Knights got a late goal in the third quarter which saw them take a 4 point lead into the final term. Kicking with the wind in the last quarter, Oakleigh had all the play and it was only a matter of time before we scored. After some dodging and weaving, Bridget slotted a fantastic goal from the boundary to put us in front, and then Bonnie kicked a nice goal late in the game to put the result beyond doubt. 3 wins in a row!

A terrific game with contributors across the ground. Freya played mostly off half back and had a stand out game, along with Lily F and Chooty. Gecko saved the day a number of times on the last line of defence. Daisy, Matisse and Gisselle in the midfield were solid. Ayla and Olivia R were moved to the wings and played well. Our forwards contested hard all day and locked the ball in.

The team is playing really well and the skill, fitness and teamwork is improving each week. Keep up the good work girls!



GRUB AT THE CLUB

We witnessed a new level of Grub cuisine presentation on Sunday with Cate's cake design! What a creative way to cheer on the Dragons. Go Cate! Go Dragons!



Ross McCulloch had double celebrations at Grub on Sunday, it was his birthday and he won the meat tray! What a fantastic way to celebrate your birthday Ross! Congratulations.





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

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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		U18 Boys
20-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		U13 Mixed
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)					

