



THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 2

Hi Team,

The weather certainly proved to be in our favour for the season opening round and the return to footy sure didn't disappoint either. Kicking off with the U9's at Scammell and finishing with the U18 Girls (Kenny) it was great to see footy back for 2024. It has been a few years since we fielded an U8's team and they started their season with two matches in a "Welcome to Football" Carnival hosted at McKinnon. And this year we are fielding 2x U18 Girls teams, which is very, very exciting.

Congratulations to Daisy Bird and Sienna Bernardo for both being selected in the Coates League to play with the Oakleigh Chargers Team. Ex Dragon James McLaughlin also made the cut for the Chargers and we wish all three players the best for the next step in their football career.

Thank you to the U18 Girls players and parents for putting on the first Grub of the season, it was a great night to celebrate the return of footy and catch up with our extended family.

Oakleigh Amateur Football Club (OAFC) will soon be hosting their Annual BCNA (Breast Cancer Network Australia) Charity Luncheon on 18 May. Together with the Dragons the OAFC are seeking donations to fill hampers to be raffled off on the day for this important cause. If you, or you know of a local business that, could donate to this event, please get in touch with me and I'll point you in the right direction.

To All the Committee members that have worked tirelessly in the off season, I thank you very much. Whether it was submitting applications for Grants, ordering merchandise or getting the kit bags together for the Team Managers, every single piece of this effort goes towards getting our kids on the paddock for game day. To all the parents I met at the 5 matches at Scammell on Sunday (yes I watched all 5 of them) thank you for your support for the Club and your child(ren)s passion for football.

I can't wait to get into the Coaches Reports below for the matches I didn't get a chance to see.

Grub will be back in Round #3, 28 April hosted by the combined U8 & U9 teams. This is our ANZAC medal presentation Round for the Most Courageous Player for each team. Hope to see you all there.

Have a great week ahead and get super excited for Round #2. Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

2024 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Brodie Phillips
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Compliance Officer: Vacant
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Boys Coaching Coordinator (Youth): Vacant
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Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
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Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:
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Justin Scott

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REMINDERS

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Oakleigh Dragons takes child safety seriously and as such is governed by its own Rules and By-Laws and those of SMJFL, AFL VIC and Victorian Government Legislation. The SMJFL states that if you take on a role within a team, you must hold a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC). You can find more information on the SMJFL's website and on the Working with Children website.

All game day roles that are allocated by Team Managers to parents/guardians require a valid WWCC. We ask that one parent/guardian from every family holds a valid WWCC.

For volunteers, a Working with Children Check is a very simple and free process. Apply here: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

If you already have a WWCC, please make sure that Oakleigh Junior Football Club is listed as a linked organisation on your WWCC.

Please note there are no WWCC exemptions for Police or VIT in line with SMJFL policies.



COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

Oakleigh Dragons under 8's started the season off playing in a Welcome to Football Carnival playing Highett Football Club. The excitement was shown on all the kids' faces as the siren went, we started off well with the first goal and we continued to improve throughout the game. All players were getting to familiarise themselves with positions and were enjoying the experience. It was great to see all 24 kids embrace each other and have a successful first game.

Second game we played Dingley and we continued to play well, showing some very good passages of play. Shout out to Jude for his amazing efforts and his great sportsmanship. We will take this first experience as a successful one and build into the season. I can't wait to see how this amazing bunch of children grow and enjoy their first year of football. I would also like to thank my support staff as it wouldn't be possible without you and all the parent helpers, you know who you are!

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The under 9s kicked off the 2024 season at home against AJAX. After a strong pre-season and good showing in the practice game against Dingley our players were eager to get out there. We had a good mix of experienced and new players, with 11 new players representing the club.

Our message was simple, go out and attack the ball in numbers and when we could, move the ball fast and take the game on. After a tight first quarter the game then opened up and we were able to hit the scoreboard frequently. A highlight of this free-flowing play was our ability to take it through the corridor for an end-to-end goal.

The most pleasing part of our game was the even contribution from all players who took instructions on well from the coaches and played the game the right way. A complete four quarter effort that resulted in a great outcome for the kids where they got to sing the club song loud and proud, many for the very first time.

Well done to all on a super team effort today, a great way to start the season.

Go Dragons!!





U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

The team was buzzing with excitement as they prepared to kick off the first round of the year. Arriving early and brimming with energy, everyone was eager to get into the swing of things during the team warm-up. Our opponents for the day were the Dingley Dingoes, whom we had encountered a few weeks prior in a practice game. The first quarter proved to be an arm wrestle, with both teams giving it their all. However, we managed to gain the upper hand in the second and third quarters, effectively controlling the game and keeping the ball predominantly in our half of the ground. Despite facing a tough final quarter, our collective efforts were enough to give us a chance to sing the club song.

It was a testament to the balanced team effort we are striving for this year, with a focus on rotating players through various positions during the game. It's clear that the dedication to pre-season and teamwork paid off, setting a promising tone for the season ahead.

Well done to the under 10s for a great performance.

Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day and assisted with coaching during the preseason.

U11 MIXED JAI ROBINSON

The under 11s mixed team took on AJAX on a lovely Sunday morning. Our team were on the back foot early with AJAX putting scoreboard pressure on in the first quarter. Our midfield were challenged all game and our opposition executed the fundamentals better than we did for the whole game.

Our effort was commendable with Hamish leading from the front with his contested work in the midfield. Ethan was solid off half back reading the play and creating opportunities. To our credit, we fought back well in the last quarter gaining time in our forward half which resulted in a goal to Wyatt, well done.

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played East Malvern at their ground this week with an 8am start so the boys had to be switched on early and they were. Co-Captains were Thomas and James, both boys brought their strong training form into the game and led from the front.

James kicked the first of the game then despite having all the territory, we weren't able to convert into goals so the game stayed tight. The opposition hit back in the 2nd quarter with a couple of goals to take the lead but our boys did not give in.

Still plenty of dew on the grass in the 3rd so it was scrappy at times but the boys kept burrowing in and pushing the ball forward. We started to use our pace and kick to space then run the ball back into our forward line.

We were trailing in the final quarter but the boys worked hard to stay on top around the contest and surge forward. After repeat entries and shots on goal, Harrison was able to mark and goal to put us back in front. From there the boys held on for a well-earned win.

It was an excellent team effort all round and special mentions to Alex, Archer and Masaki for repeat efforts all over the ground all day. Teddy, Finn, Karlos and Jonah also impressed with plenty of strong running and tackling.

Well done Dragons!



U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

The Girls Dragons under 12 team welcomed South Melbourne Districts on a calm and sunny day at Scammell Reserve to kick off our season in a 12v12 contest and agreed to play 4x4x4. I would like to welcome our new players for this season in Mabel, Alexis, Lois, Giann and Anastasia.

South Melbourne had the advantage of 2 spare players on the bench and our players played the full 4 quarters on the ground. It was to be a rotational on-ground challenge.

We definitely presented our new players with a challenge by throwing Mabel and Alexis straight in as our key defenders to start the year and asked Lois and Giann to be our impact players. They duly obliged with great effort and contesting extremely well for first game players. We look forward to having Anastasia in the team who was unfortunately unavailable today.

Our team values are entrenched in effort, respect, supporting each other, working as a team and having fun. And what we saw today was exactly a great representation of those values from the word go, with great leadership shown by our experienced players Jess, Ruby A, Skye and Sophia in the middle to set the tone early.

Jessica started early with pressure, tackling and some great clearances supported by fellow mids. She marked everything that came near her and ran hard to create space. Skye, Ruby A and Soph worked hard throughout and pushed forward. Although we couldn't get the score on the board, the connection and effort was there.

At half time we trailed 2.5.17 to 0.6.6 which was not reflective of how we felt we were playing and right in the game in general play.

In the second half we switched Mabel into the middle from fullback and swapped our impact players forward and back pockets around, and that turned the game. Mabel's first game and she not only gave some of the midfielders a rest, but she had an immediate impact in driving the ball forward with the tireless Ruby A, who got stronger as the game progressed. Tireless probably doesn't do her effort justice; immense and relentless effort is more reflective of her contribution. This freed up Skye and Kiana to really get into the game forward of centre when all the magic really started happening.

Vicky our Captain for the day broke through and goaled twice late in the 3rd quarter for us to hit the lead 2.8.20 to 2.6.18 at 3 quarter time.

In the last quarter the girls kept working hard and there were some fantastic contests and efforts from Tyra, Ruby T, Alexis, Lois and Giann, who all made it to contests and spread the teamwork. It was thrilling and a tight contest with a lot of great loud support from our fans on the sidelines.

It was close arm wrestle for the first half of the last quarter with no scoring. Then it was time to unleash Sophia back into the ruck, after a well-earned rest down back. Mabel had done her job and went back into defence and Sophia was ready to help us finish strong with her experience and skill. This really helped the girls keep the foot on the pedal and run the game out strongly.

A special late goal to Skye, a contender for goal of the year from the boundary line 20 metres out, and a late sealer from Kiana from 30m was icing on the cake. In the end, it was a great fun start to the year, played in good spirits from SMDJFC and the Dragons, and a great team performance true to our team values.

We look forward to having our coach Marco back next week, who we can share also just celebrated with a successful Tennis coaching trip in Japan.

Oakleigh 4.8.32 SMDJFC 2.7.19
Goals: Victoria 2, Skye 1, Kiana 1.



U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

This week the U14 girls had a Bye.

U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

The U15 boys faced East Sandringham Rovers down at home, on Sunday afternoon. The boys jumped out to a quick start slotting 3 majors in the opening term compared to Rovers 2.2 going into the first quarter with a 4-point lead. The 2nd quarter saw the Rovers dedicate the game on their terms setting up nicely behind the play trapping the ball in their forward half putting continuous pressure on the defenders, this pressure saw East Sandy go into the term up by 7 points.

After a half-time talk with an emphasis on getting back to our game plan the boys went out and executed the plan kicking 3 goals to the Rovers 1 with great spread and movement around the ground led by Takoda Arjana and Ari McLeod up forward with the Dragons taking the lead heading into the 4th 46-39.

After a hard, close battle and a goalless 4th term, the boys unfortunately went down to the Rovers by 5pts. However, with a tough loss, there are plenty of learnings to take away from the game and plenty to work on at training this week before we face Ormond this week!

U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Melbourne provided a cracking Sunday afternoon for our round 1 Columbia park game against the Waverley Hawks. Footy is back and the girls definitely came to play. I asked that we go out and put on pressure from the first bounce. The hard tackles and relentless running allowed us to get the jump on the Hawks and after numerous forward 50 entries Bonnie, Emily, Gracie, Nicole, Charlotte and Sienna L had ample opportunities. They didn't disappoint and we took a 3-5-23 lead at 1/4 time.

The second quarter we went up another gear and kicked another 5-5. Our mids were running riot. Reagan, Lily, Sienna B, Matisse, Gisselle and Fiona were everywhere.

The third quarter our backline got tested with the Hawks lifting and they went forward numerous times, much credit has to be given to Choetso, Chanel, Freya and Serana who handled the pressure with fierce tackling and close checking. Even though we conceded a well-deserved Hawks goal we were still able to kick 4 goals of our own.

The last quarter became the Bonnie and Gracie show, our 2 twin towers dominated the forward line and were slotting goals from everywhere. We finished off with 4 unanswered goals to run out comfortable winners. Well done girls on a great start to the season.



Score: Oakleigh 17-15 -117 Waverley 1-1-7

Goals: Gracie 6, Bonnie 5, Sienna B 3, Emily 2, Sienna L 1



U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

Oakleigh Dragons 0.2 (2) Beaumaris Sharks 7.2 (44)



It was great to welcome Sophie Bouchier and Emma Dean to the Dragons for their first official game (pictured left).

Playing with 15 players, the Oakleigh girls fought hard all day. The backline was ferocious all day, tackling, smothering, and intercepting the Sharks' forward thrusts. Hazza, Jess, Brianna, Sophie C and Livvy fought hard all day. Ruby rucked well most of the game while Nat, Ayla and Olivia R kept running all day through the midfield. Bridget had a great game and her long kicking was important at both ends of the ground. Sophie B had a shot on goal late in the last quarter, but the kick was touched right on the line. The scoreboard didn't

reflect how even the game was and everyone played really well considering it was their first game together. Onwards and upwards Dragons!

Player of the Day:

Jessica Hopgood gathered the ball at full back and cleared the defensive area. Jess then followed up with 3 or 4 efforts to make sure the ball kept going forward and eventually resulted in a boundary throw in on the wing. Great effort Jess!



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.



Dear Players, Friends, and Families,

We are reaching out to you regarding the 2024 Breast Cancer Awareness Charity Ladies Luncheon on the 18th of May.

To raise funds for the cause, we are doing a raffle. We are looking for donations to be put into hampers and raffled off!

Last year we had overwhelming support and generous donations thanks to members of our community. Please investigate the possibility of donations from local businesses, friends, and family, whilst reminding them of the important cause.

Last year we had donations from Natio, Oakleigh South Bowls Club, Bunnings and many more!



If more information is needed, please contact:

Tayla Bethune

(Vice President of Oakleigh Amateur Football Club)

+61 413 815 065

Additionally, we would like to invite you to attend our event at Scammell Reserve on the 18th at 12:30, drinks available at bar prices and nibbles, with a line-up of phenomenal speakers.

Tickets will be released closer to event! \$50 per person! Get in early before it sells out! Details will be released on Facebook!



On behalf of Oakleigh Amateur Football Club, we thank you.

Pat Heverin (President Of Oakleigh Amateur Football Club)



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
14-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U18 Girls Teams
21-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		
28-Apr	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	ANZAC Medal presentation	U8/9 Mixed
5-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4		
12-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Mother's Day	
19-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		U15 Boys
26-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	National Volunteer Week, 20-26 May	
2-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U10 Mixed
8-10-Jun	No Games / Interleague Carnival				King's Birthday	
16-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U11 Mixed
23-Jun	No Games				School Holidays	
30-Jun	No Games				School Holidays	
7-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
14-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U12 & U14 Girls
21-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
28-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U12 Mixed
4-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
11-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		
18-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		Committee
w/c 19-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
w/c 26 Aug			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Father's Day	
w/c 2-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC PRESENTATION DAY, SCAMMELL RESERVE						

