



THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well last weekend marked the end of the Grading Rounds and the Grading meeting was held on Monday night. We have mostly received what we requested. Thanks to the Coaches who provided their feedback.

Fixtures for Rounds 5 - 9 will be released on Wednesday 8 May and I'm hopeful that we will see our first scheduled Friday Night match at Scammell. Fingers crossed.

Another 50 Game milestone this last round for Harrison and Gregory for the U12 Mixed team. Well done boys!

Ari McLeod from the U15 Boys, played his first match with the Krushers on Saturday, playing with the U19's and slotted one goal. Well done Ari.

We've got the Toyota Good for Footy Raffle back this season, tickets are only \$5. Jump on board for a chance to win one of 3 Toyotas and all proceeds come back to the Club.

To all the wonderful mum's out there in Dragonland. Have a Happy Mother's Day. I hope the fixture works in your favour so you may get breakfast in bed or a nice lunch out.

See you round the grounds for Round 5.

Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President



2024

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GO DRAGONS

2024 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Brodie Phillips
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Property Officer: Vacant
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Team Manager Coordinator: Ross Black
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Child Safety Officer: Janine Bird
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Youth): Vacant
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Vacant
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
Incident Coordinator: Jackie Wise
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:
Annelise Scott
Justin Scott

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FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Harrison Cook, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Gregory Moschoyiannis, U12 Mixed



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like included in the next Acorn,
please email them with a description to Anne at a.sturrock76@gmail.com





REMINDERS

UMPIRES MATTER

This week we celebrate our umpires with AFL Community Umpire Week (6-12 May)!

As we celebrate our umpires, remember they are doing a tough job, which many of us would not be willing to do.

It is important that players and parents display appropriate behaviour and respect any decisions made by the umpires, as outlined in the Code of Conduct signed by all players and parents. Swearing at umpires is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the club, especially as many umpires are also juniors.

This is a junior sport that should be enjoyable for everybody and we want to uphold a reputation as a club with high standards and professional conduct.

From first bounce to the final siren, we simply wouldn't have a game of footy without umpires. Let's treat them with respect.



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THE TRYBE



WIN CASH FOR YOUR CLUB

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Shop in-store and show either your club bar code below or your PlayHQ registration to our store team. We'll then add this to your club's total and track the total purchases for your club throughout the season.

OAKLEIGH JFC



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Alternatively, make a purchase online and enter the following promo code for your club and we can track.

OAKLEIGHFC

VISIT US AT YOUR NEAREST TRYBE STORE :

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Winning club will be determined by the highest percentage of their total 2024 membership shopping at The Trybe. This would be calculated based on total footwear units to % of players.
1 footwear unit = 1 entry. Competition runs from 25th March to 30th September



AUTUMN FAMILY FETE

**OAKLEIGH SOUTH
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SATURDAY 11TH MAY

AMUSEMENT RIDES, FOOD & SWEET STALLS,
CAFÉ, CARNIVAL GAMES, SILENT AUCTION,
FRIENDLY FARM ANIMALS, PLANTS,
PRODUCE, FACEPAINTING, SILENT DISCO,
DUNKING MACHINE, SHOWBAGS, PRE-
LOVED BOOKS & TOYS, HUGE
ENTERTAINMENT STAGE AND LOTS MORE.

RIDES

*HURRICANE * KIDS CAROUSEL * DODGEM
CARS * BALL CRAWL * SIZZLER * GIANT
FUN SLIDE * TEA CUPS * CHAIR-O-PLANE *
BAD BOYS * ADRENALINE RUSH * JURASSIC
INFLATABLE * DRAGON WAGON COASTER *



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UNTIL: 10AM FRIDAY 10TH MAY



COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

Oakleigh under 8s faced Highett, and this week played so well, and I'm sure made all the parents proud. The game started off well with holding their tackles and improving on their longer hand balls, we have been working hard at training on these aspects and it showed in the game.

We had a good spread of players with good input with special mention to Hamish, Elijah and Rishon continuing on from last week's good form, as well as Max B and James P. We continued to improve in each quarter as their confidence was growing, it was evident the children were starting to believe in themselves. We had some very good passages of play with good kicks and marking. Was great to see the children embracing each other after each of the goals, thanks again to all Parent helpers and Go Dragons.

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

We came up against Brighton Beach at home this week. After a tough game last week for the kids, we were looking forward to getting back on our home deck and showing an improved performance. This week we welcomed a debutant to the team in Sam K, great to have you on board and early signs are you will be a great addition to the team.

We started the game off slowly as Brighton Beach jumped us showing greater intensity towards the ball with the game being played in their half. Our forwards had limited opportunities but a late goal to Max helped steady the ship.

At quarter time the message to the group was to lift the intensity, apply greater pressure and to hunt the ball in numbers. It was going to take a whole team effort and pleasingly the whole team responded whereby we were able to steady the ship in the second quarter and give ourselves a great chance of singing the club song at the end of the game.

This momentum continued in the second half controlling the game for large parts which saw Oli hitting the scoreboard and Ethan kicking his first goal for the club following a great mark and conversion, well done Ethan.

Unfortunately, some late misses on goal meant we fell just short, however defensively that is the best we have played as a group, keeping Brighton to one goal for the last three quarters and scoreless in the last quarter. I though Luke being moved back behind the ball was huge becoming a wall for our team and creating huge drive forwards for the group.

Some highlights for the game were Sam and Max's ability to take strong contested marks enabling us to control play, Jayden's defensive pressure and tackling leading by example and Oli's determination to never give up.

Team over individual and sacrificing yourself at times for the benefit of the team continues to be a message to the group. This will come with experience in being a part of a team/club which is new for a lot.

Our slow starts have hurt us two weeks in a row now. It all starts at training and making the most of those sessions. I talk about it all the time to the group about turning up to have fun absolutely, however concentration levels need to improve. As the saying goes you play like you train and I believe that has been reflective in the last couple of week's starts.

U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

Back on our home ground and feeling good after a couple of tough encounters over the previous few weeks. From the get-go, South Melbourne had us on the back foot, controlling the middle and keeping the ball locked into their forward line. We had opportunities late in the quarter, however, we were unable to convert. The next two quarters were similar, with the Dragons starting slow, however, they worked their way into the game. Unfortunately, the last quarter saw us fall away, and South Melbourne did an amazing job of moving the ball, taking marks, and making the most of their opportunities.

Though the team was feeling down after the game, the best thing about it being early in the season is that we have another opportunity to develop the team and work on our ability to keep our hands on the ball

U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON

Perfect autumn sunshine greeted the U11 Mixed team as we arrived for our first afternoon game of the season at McKinnon reserve on Sunday. Our opponents, the St Pauls Doggies, came out strongly and held momentum for most of the first quarter but our determined and resilient defence stifled their scoring and kept them to only a two goal lead going into quarter time.



As the match progressed so did our intensity and our midfield and backline pressure was fantastic. Time and time again we were able to deny them scoring opportunities by playing tight man on man defence and reading the game effectively. Co-captain Luke was particularly impressive making everything that came his way and constantly sending the ball forward to our hardworking midfielders.

We were able to create some good scoring opportunities in the second half with Wyatt and Blake both kicking impressive goals. It was really encouraging to see our midfield apply pressure to cause turnovers, win the ball and then link up with each other to move the ball into our forward half. Max and Tom Morel were both outstanding all game and led the way along with our other captain Charlie, the two James' and Darwell. Despite losing by a couple of goals our team carried on the momentum of our strong win last week and are really starting to play an exciting brand of pressure footy.

Pictured: Luke and Charlie, our 2 captains for this week



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.



U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK



Our final grading game today was at home at Scammell in perfect conditions for footy. Co-Captains were Harrison and Gregory with both boys celebrating their 50th games for the Dragons. H and Greg showed their strengths in tackling and working hard for their team mates which was important as we were up against a very strong side in Mordialloc.

They jumped us early and held a commanding lead at quarter time but from the 2nd quarter our boys started to get back to the team effort that we focus on and showed glimpses of what they are capable of.

The 3rd quarter was an arm wrestle and were able to test them with our run and dare and increased pressure.

Then we asked the boys to focus on winning the last quarter which they did. Our fitness and willingness to work for each other really showed so the boys can hold their heads high. Finn, Alex and David in particular worked hard all day.

Play of the day was a string of passes from deep in our backline all the way down the wing into our forward line. It started with Masaki, who passed to Thomas E, who moved it on to Harrison who then passed to Tommy M. Tommy then passed to Greg who launched it forward to David in the forward pocket who brought the ball to ground. David then laid strong tackle and was rewarded with a free kick which he put right through the middle. Beautiful to watch!

BIG thanks to Ethan, Max and Tommy who played up from the U/11's.

Great effort boys! Showed lots of character.

Season starts again now grading is over so we'll get to work at training and keep improving.

Go Dragons!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Another week and another struggle for numbers. A massive thank you to our team manager Janelle and assistant coach Chris who chased other team managers to find our 12th player for the weekend. We were lucky to have Emily play for us and she looked very comfortable in the forward line and is welcome to play with us anytime. Loved having Emily and Zoe playing in our team over the last two weeks.

This week we played the undefeated Brighton Beach away and it was an old fashioned arm wrestle. It was a hard fought first quarter with our goal scoring machine, Skye kicking the only goal. Sophia in the ruck gave us heaps of opportunity with her great work at the stoppages.

The second was much the same, Ruby getting plenty of the ball in and under the packs, feeding the ball to the ever running Skye and Jess running and bouncing the ball along the wings. Emily and Victoria contested bravely when the ball went to ground though the Brighton backline were too strong in the air taking plenty of marks deep in our forward line. Kiana continued her run of form sweeping the ball up from around the packs and kicking long with her raking right boot. The highlight was Mabel throwing herself from contest to contest and kicking her first goal for the Dragons.

Only having a 2 goal lead and no bench we knew the second half would be tough with Brighton having 4 on the bench.

We needed to rotate the girls into unfamiliar positions but they flourished. Giaan and Louis went into the midfield and found a heap of the ball and were clever in moving it forward. Tyra fought bravely down back at times being out numbered but still gave us a contest and never gave up.

Going it the last quarter we held a 2 point lead but the fresher legs proved too strong and Brighton ran out winners by 11 points. Even though we were down, with almost no time remaining and no chance of winning Alexis ran down a girl from behind running into an open goal and won the free kick. True Dragon spirit to the very end.

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Well the Melbourne autumn weather turned it on again with the u14 girls putting on another dominant display against a Beaumaris team that clearly won't be in our division.

Nevertheless, we still ask the same of these girls every week and they just keep on doing what we ask and what we expect irrespective of the opposition or which position we play them in.

After another fast start, the goals piled up pretty quickly and again we realised that the board was going to move around much earlier than we had anticipated. The beauty of this group is how they take on advice or altered team instruction on the fly and they implement it, whether it be mid game or at the breaks. We had a strong directive on a certain aspect for when our player gained possession of the ball and it was pleasing to see that this was then carried out almost immediately.



An overall terrific effort from our girls once again. We're doing the small important things more often in games now and it's making all the difference. Strong bodies around the ball, the link up play, shepherding for team mates, keeping your feet and quick hands.

Great game by our forwards especially Sophie, Christina, Lavinia, Layla and our resident goal sneak Yana.

Well led by the captain Milly and her VC Zoe with Sienna shooting for the Coleman with another bag. Cam, Miette and Gia pushed on all day, Tash and Lucia were everywhere as usual. Nearly everyone was rotated through the back line where unfortunately it was a little quiet.

Goals - Sienna 5, Yana 2, Serana 2, Sophie 2, Zoe 2, Layla, Milly, Lucy, Lucia, Tash



U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

The u15 boys returned back at home, after a two week away stint, to play against Cheltenham panthers.

The boys put in the hard yards over the week and started off the first quarter with a fast free flowing game that set the tone for the day. The boys implemented both our defensive and offensive structure to a tee and opened up the ground which resulted in 8 different goal kickers for the day.

Ari McLeod adds another 9 goals to his season bringing his goal tally to 31 in just four games.

After another 100+ point win, the boys now face a new challenge in division 2 this weekend against rivals Dingley.



U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

The U18 girls won this week by default as St Paul's McKinnon Doggies forfeited.

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

Another cracking autumn day greeted us for our Rd 4 clash with Mordi-Brae.

With only 15 players, I asked the girls to focus on their effort and that's exactly what they did. From the opening bounce the Dragons girls tackled, harassed, pressured, chased and contested every possession.

A fantastic first half saw us keep the opposition to 3 goals. As we fatigued, and as the Mustangs rotated their extensive bench, they scored a few more in the second half. The result didn't go our way, but everyone should be really proud of how they played today.

Bridget ran all day and was in everything – marking, tackling, running and kicking us forward. Nat was composed and skilful as always and had lots of the footy. Yasmin played a great game off half back and side stepped and shimmied down the wing a few times. Jess was solid again at full back and had plenty of effective kick outs. Emma, playing her 3rd game of footy, had some important touches and is growing in confidence each week. Hazza was good in defence and made a great goal saving tackle that brought the crowd to their feet. Ruby did a great smother, Eva and Clem took good marks, the Sophie's were taking marks and hitting targets, Brianna was steaming out of defence with confidence, Olivia R ran all day and Chanel was laying bone crunching tackles.



A great team effort against a more experienced opposition – well done Dragons! Let's stick together for the rest of the season.



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						

