THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 6

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I'm standing in for Brodie this week as he's a little under the weather. We wish him all the best and hope he recovers quickly!!

The Football God's were definitely shining down on us on Sunday and served up a perfect sun-filled Mother's Day. Some teams really celebrated their Mum's with cupcakes, roses and singing the Dragons song.

Congratulations to Nicole Shaw from U18 girls on achieving 50 games!! Well done Nicole that is an amazing effort.

A friendly "Secretary" reminder to everyone that inappropriate behaviour towards Umpires on or off the field by players and spectators is NOT tolerated by either the SMJFL or by the Club. This includes swearing at Umpires or excessively making comments about the umpiring or towards the umpire.

The Club's expectations are clearly outlined in the Code of Conduct signed by parents & players. This can be found on our website.

Grub at the Club is on this Sunday and will be hosted by our U15 boys with a special guest as MC. Dinner starts at 6pm ($3 a plate) followed by the Coaches match reports and is usually all wrapped up by about 7.30pm. Hope to see you all there!

Good luck to everyone for Round 6.

Go Dragons!

Caz Hayes
Secretary

GO DRAGONS

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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Nicole Shaw, U18 Girls

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

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.

REMINDERS

TEAM BENCH AREA

The Team Bench area is where it all happens during a footy match. The Coaches manage their game play strategy and team structure here. It is important that they have the space to focus on these important tasks. As such, this is a reminder that in addition to Players participating in the match, only the following Team Officials are allowed in the Team Bench area during a footy match:

- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Trainer
- Runner

They must all be wearing the appropriate SMJFL bib.

No other person is permitted in the Team Bench area during the match.

The Team Manager has the authority to ask people to leave the bench if they do not fall into the above categories.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What is your name?

Hi, I'm Caz Hayes.

What volunteer role do you do at the Dragons?

I am Secretary of the Club and also do any game day volunteer roles as rostered on.

Which age group/s do your kids play for at the Dragons?

U15 boys

How long have you been at the Club?

My eldest son first started playing for the Dragons back in 2016, since then we've managed a couple of seasons with all 3 of our boys playing at the same time.

What's your favourite thing about being a part of the Dragon's Football Club?

That it is a family orientated club that focuses on participation and improving the skill level of every single player. Playing team sports teaches you to appreciate the value of every team mate, their abilities and how their strengths contribute to your own game. I love seeing Dragon's players in any age group supporting their team mates, encouraging and lifting them when it's needed.

What other roles have you done during your time at the Dragons?

Every weekly volunteer role there is, except Coach or Boundary Umpire.

What do you do outside of the Dragons Football Club?

I work as an Admin Manager for a Financial Planning firm based in Brighton. I'm a mum to 3 boys aged 18, 15 & 13 who are all into different sports so there is a lot of Ubering them around between training/games/work & their social lives. Hubby (Roy) works as a Rigger for a commercial construction company 6 days a week and I squeeze in a couple of Netball games every week.

What sport did you play as a kid?

I dabbled in Swimming & Athletics as a Junior competing at State level in both, but Basketball was my preferred sport. At one point I was playing/training up to 6-7 days a week as I played in multiple domestic comps plus a Rep comp all at the same time. (Thanks to my parents for all the pickups and drop offs.)

If you could have a Super Power, what would it be?

To be able to eat chocolate and lose weight!

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THE TRYBE | SM

WIN CASH FOR YOUR CLUB

Simply make any footwear purchase at your nearest Trybe store during the 2024 football season and the winning club with the most purchases will win $2,000 to go towards club equipment and supplies.

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.

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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

COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

Oakleigh under 8's hosted St Paul's and it was a beautiful morning for football.

The game started off very evenly with both teams showing promising passages of play, but the highlight for the 1st quarter was a fantastic mark by Max B intercepting a long kick from the opposition.

The second quarter we felt like we lost concentration and this showed with St Paul's kicking back to back goals. The second half improved with good passages from Luca and Eli with goal of the day from Harvey as he collected the ball from 30m out running around 3 players and kicked a good snap goal.

We have been improving each week and players showing me that they have been listening at training, it is good to see such good numbers of supporters and this makes a good environment for all. Better luck next week and keep sticking at it. Go Dragons!!

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The under 9s took on Highett away this weekend. The challenge was set for the team to get off to a better start this week as we have been getting into a habit of playing catch up footy.

Unfortunately, Highett started the better of the two teams and got the jump on us in the first half and from them on it was always going to be a battle. The message to the team at all breaks was around improving our work rate as a team. Second, third, fourth efforts not thinking that once you had disposed of the ball your job was done.

The second half saw this turn around and we were able to balance the game up in the third quarter. I was proud of the team's effort to play the game right out to the end. We dominated play in the last quarter limiting the opposition to 1 behind. We moved Sam H forward to great effect looking extremely dangerous in the last quarter hitting the scoreboard twice. Unfortunately, a couple of close misses for goal would have had the game go right down to the wire but it was not to be.

The focus for us going forwards is to be able to play with the intensity shown in the last quarter for longer periods. We look forward to getting back out next week to continue developing as a team.

I hope all the Mum's had a great Mother's Day and enjoyed watching their kid's game this week.

U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

The under 10s mixed team welcomed St. Peters to Scammell on Sunday. The team was feeling good during the warm-up, and it translated into a great first quarter. The midfielders were hard at the contest and first to the ball, which was an area of focus in training this week. Francesco led the way with multiple centre clearances, giving our forwards plenty of opportunities to take advantage, led by Koby.

With an entirely new midfield group, the second quarter followed a similar pattern to the first. William, Archer, and Boyd kept the pressure on, harassing and forcing the ball forward. Our back 6 were clearing the ball in defence and our forwards were locking the ball in, creating opportunities. The first half of footy was the best all year at manning up and being accountable for an opposition player.

The team kept the pressure on for the entire second half, with the team rotating through different positions on the ground, creating opportunities for others to lead the way. James Sanzaro laid some big tackles, Raj clunked a few marks, and Evan showcased some special skills up forward. It was a huge team effort which allowed us to sing the team song at the end of the game.

This week's challenge was to take multiple marks both in defence and up forward. The team achieved their goal and earned the right to run the last 20 minutes of training this week.

U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON

The u11s took on Dingley at their ground on a beautiful Sunday morning.

We played Dingley in our first game of the year in a practice match but fell short in a tight contest.

We got off to an even start with the ball bouncing in between the arcs, our defensive pressure and tackling of the opposition started to show and as a result, most of the 1st quarter was played in our forward half. With this, it was important that our wingers and forwards held their positions so that we had coverage across the ground. Darwell got on the scoreboard early, with his repeated contested work around the ball.

The 2nd quarter was great for us, we dominated around the ball and locked the game in our forward half as best we could. Charlie on the wing, the Morel boys and our midfield were well on top and the scoreboard pressure started to show. Our captains James Tesoriero and James Satchell both got on the scoreboard and were dominant throughout the game.

The second half was much the same, our contested work was brilliant and we again had most of the play in our forward area, Ethan kicked a couple and gave off several in another dominant display, Lucas kicked his first goal for the team and Phoenix, whilst significantly undersized, went to work on the Dingley ruckman and was outstanding with his pressure and running.

All players contributed on the weekend and you should all be very proud with your efforts after having a big win, well done!!!

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

On a perfect day for footy we took on St Peters at their home ground for the 2nd time this year. Co-Captains were Teddy and Paulie who, like all of our leaders, have trained really well over the last couple of weeks and always give 100% on the ground.

We introduced a new focus today about “1 Percenters” that lift the Team. The aim here is to keep the boys switched on when they don’t have the footy so they are always mindful of things they can do to help the Team like strong Smothers, Shepherds, Spoils, Tap-ons and repeat efforts.

We started ok with the right mind-set but I think the boys were surprised by the effort the opposition were putting in and the pressure they put on us. We were also a bit disorganised around the ball and the opposition were quick to pounce on our mistakes and kicked away to a strong start.

At half time we found ourselves 4 goals down without a major on the board. We asked the boys to come back to the 1 Percenters and really work for each other. Most importantly work for their mums and make them proud. The boys responded.

In the 3rd quarter the energy was up, the run was back and the boys worked really hard for each other with inspiring efforts all over the ground. These efforts were rewarded with 4 goals in the quarter which set the scene for a big finish.

The 4th was an arm wrestle but we held on for a gutsy win.

I'd like to name all players today for their efforts but William was a standout all day and led the way with his 1 Percenters. Karlos had a brilliant 2nd half and Finn, Alex, Teddy, Masaki and Jonah were also good. James was a rock in the ruck in the 2nd half and Thomas was great down forward as was Tommy M. Thanks to Tommy and Max for playing up and thanks to all the Mums who could make it today and sung the song with their team.

Well done Dragons!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

On a sunny Sunday we were back at Scammell playing against the Vampires.

Again playing with less players on the field our girls got off to a flyer kicking 3 first quarter goals. It was a tight battle early, Sophia again dominating the ruck and with Jess and Ruby A in the midfield we were able to get the ball into our forward line and create a heap of chances. Ruby A also scoring her first goal.

The girls really stepped it up in the second, Kiana swooping around the backs gathering the ball and hitting targets down forward. Our skills were on show with great marking and handballs to advantage. Anastasia started to get into the game through the midfield and Giann continues to impress with her ball gathering ability in and under the packs. The highlight was Sophia chasing down and laying a massive tackle to save a certain goal.

Leading at half time we moved a few players around and they were all up for the challenge. Ruby T went forward to pile on the pressure with her changing and tackling.

We all celebrated as our lively forward Emily kicked her first goal but unfortunately the umpire didn't allow the advantage and Mabel went back and kicked truly. Our goal scoring machine did it again, Skye, kicked another crazy goal from the boundary or as we like to call it "Skye's Pocket".

In the final quarter the girls didn't let up and it wasn't long before a fierce defender Alexis went into the forward line and danced around 3 defenders to kick her first goal of the season. Lois had more time around the ground and got a clever handball out to create another scoring chance for us. Even our goal sneak Victoria popped up with a goal.

The fighting spirit and tenacity of the girls was encapsulated in the dying moments of the match, we were comfortably ahead, the Vampires got us out of position and they were streaming towards their goal, 5 Vampires and not a Dragon to be seen. It would've been understandable for our girls to sit back and watch them run away and get a goal but no, they took off!!! We hunted them down and stopped them from scoring.

A memorable Mother's Day at Dragonland!

Goals: Sophia 4, Kiana 3, Skye 2, Mable 1, Victoria 1, Alexis 1, Ruby A. 1

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U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

This one was for all the mums. A Mother's Day special from the u14 girls after moving up to div 2 with a superb 4 quarter effort on a glorious sunny day to run out winners 40-7.

Unable to capitalise on multiple forward entries, we could only manage 0.5 to 0.0 at quarter time. Although the girls were feeling it with the warmer than usual weather, they had to push on and maintain the pressure on player and ball.

Led courageously by our battering ram Sienna L and the never-give-up ruck/midfield group, we managed to score our first goal through Yana before HT.

After a good rev up in the rooms, the Dragons came out to play and outscored South Melbourne 4 goals to none in the second half although we finished up with a wasteful 5.10.

Sienna C played her first ever game of footy, taking her first mark and contributing to the team's stellar performance. Our other new/returning player Anushka also played a great game, getting involved in many plays.

Maddy, Miette and Christina continued their great run of games, Elaine, Serana and Millie were fantastic down back, the Cam/Milly combo battled on well against a couple of big girls.

The win was tough, tireless and at times bruising with Zoe, Sienna L and Gia all wearing one for the team.
A fantastic start to div 2 girls, let's back it up against a very good Murrumbeena side on our home ground.

Goals - Lucia, Yana, Sienna, Layla, Serana, all 1 each.

U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

The u15s travelled away this weekend to face Dingley. The game started off with the Dragons jumping out the gates with a quick goal and the game looked to be a tight contest however, with two injures coming to captain and vice-captain Oskar and Henry the Dragons were reduced to no bench.

This put a lot of strain on the boys with the new pace of division 2 footy but the boys didn't give up and played very high pressure footy throughout the game and into the 4th quarter had huge tackle efforts.

Dingley was the eventual winners beating the boys 136-17 however, the boys look to bounce back this week with a big effort on the track.

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U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

A perfect autumn day enabled us to celebrate our beautiful mums and Nicole Shaw in her milestone 50th Game, well done Nicole and congratulations on an awesome achievement. Our pre-game ritual was enhanced today by a very motivational rev-up speech from Super-mum Sharon!!! And then the girls thanked their mums with a lovely rose.

We then ran through the 50 games banner for Nicole before finally settling down to play some Footy! The girls were pumped and it showed on the field. We played ferocious high pressure football. It was a real arm wrestle against East Brighton. They kicked 2 goals in the first quarter to our 2 points. So we dug in and for the next 2 quarters stopped them from scoring any more goals, while great team play enabled us to get the ball down to our very reliant goal kicker Bonnie Chetwin. So going into the last quarter there was only a couple of points difference.

The vampires had that little bit more stamina and ended up winning 5-9-39 to 2-3-15. But again very proud of the way this group goes about it.

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

The Dragons girls headed out to Columbia Park to take on the Waverley Hawks.
It was great to see all of the mums on Mother's Day. To say thanks for all of the hard work they do, each one was presented with a cupcake and a rose.

The result didn't go our way today, but the team fought it out until the end. Our only goal came in the last quarter when a series of unselfish passes landed with Harriet who went back and slotted the ball through the big sticks.

Brianna played a great game and kept running all day. She handled the ball cleanly and drove us forward on lots of occasions. Bridget was good again and contributed through the midfield and across half back. Jess did a good job at full back and Nat did lots of good things in the midfield. Sophie B had a good day across half forward, and Yasmin drove us forward off the half back line.

Keep your chins up girls. Let's stick together and fight it out for the rest of the season.

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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
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**					

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