



THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 8

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Dragons,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the season. 3 Rounds in after the regrade and it is good to see there are a few teams who are nailing the Club Song every week.

This week the Club agreed to remerge our two U18 Girls teams. The fixture from the SMJFL was unkind in allowing player movement between the two teams. The SMJFL also announced last week that the Div. 1 U18 Girls would play in a combined competition with the YJFL and that the remaining Div. 2 (Team Bernardo) and Div.3 (Team Kenny) team would be amalgamated into one 10 team division. Also by remerging our teams we reduce the number of teams in that new division from 11 to 10 therefore eliminating a Bye round and getting to enjoy more football. Good Luck to the now Super Team of U18 Girls for the remainder of the season.

It is hard to go past just how tough some matches are on our players, not to mention those parents on the sidelines who witness some very tough football. On the flip side of that, it is encouraging to see that our players stand tall and play in the correct spirit of the game. Our players continue to show respect and sportspersonship for the game and their opponents. As a parent, a volunteer and a President that makes me very proud of the deep culture of this Club. One we are all a part of. To the volunteers, especially the Trainers and Team Managers, who have to deal with some difficult situations on game day, I thank you for the mammoth effort you sometimes have to put in for your team.

For the men in our community, please register for the Men's Health session being held at the South Oakleigh Bowls Club on 12 June, more details below.

Grub this week is hosted by the U10's Mixed team. Don't forget to bring your own plate and cutlery, get in for the meat tray and most importantly, sit down with other footy parents and discuss the week that was, sometimes we all need a good debrief.

Thank you to all the people who have helped me out whilst I've been unwell, it is truly appreciated.

Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

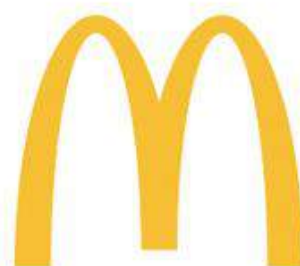
2024 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Brodie Phillips
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Caz Hayes
Treasurer: Volker Heinze
Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Vacant
Property Officer: Vacant
Canteen Manager: Vacant
Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
Social Media: Gavin Kenny

Football Operations Manager: Vacant
Team Manager Coordinator: Ross Black
First Aid Coordinator: Emily Heverin
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

2024 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
CHADSTONE**



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

**URGENT**

REMINDERS

MODIFIED RULES COMPETITION BYLAWS AND MATCH RULE

The SMJFL would like to take this opportunity to remind your Team Managers, Coaches and Club Volunteer Umpires of the Bylaws and Match rules in Modified Rules matches, specifically:

1. Bylaw 14.3 Player Numbers in Modified Rules Games

Where a team has the minimum number of Players to start a match but not a full team, both teams must play with an **equal** number of Players on the field.

2. Interpretation on tackles

There has been some confusion by Umpires, Coaches, supporters and players regarding the Modified Rules Tackle.

Please note the below regarding the tackle. **A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. Player with ball must NOT be forcefully taken to ground.**

Reports are coming back to the HQ regarding Mod Rules players getting injured as a result of tackles being conducted and in doing so bringing the player to ground.

MEN'S TALK + BBQ

RAISING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

OUR PROFESSIONAL PRESENTERS:



MARK FOLEY



MICHAEL
DILLON

The SESPAN will provide an interactive presentation on raising awareness of men's mental health and well-being.

The important topic of suicide will be tackled in response to increasing male suicide rates, particularly in senior aged men.

FREE EVENT!

Join us at South Oakleigh Bowling Club
1216 North Road, Oakleigh South
on Wednesday 12th of June from 6:00pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

REGISTER THROUGH THIS LINK:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mens-talk-and-bbq-raising-mental-health-awareness-tickets-878551480127?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

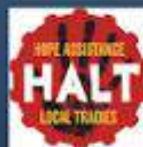


Support
information will
be available



Rotary  Oakleigh
Clayton
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Temple Society
Australia





SUPPORT OAKLEIGH JFC
& YOU COULD WIN THE

TOYOTA GOOD FOR FOOTY RAFFLE

3 TOYOTAS UP
FOR GRABS!

PRIZE
POOL

\$ 293,762

TICKETS

\$5

ALL PROCEEDS
GO TO
OAKLEIGH JFC



BUY TICKETS AT

toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/oakleighdragons



THE TRYBE



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.

OAKLEIGH JFC



9353546543397

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 :

TRYBE SOUTHLAND, WESTFIELD SOUTHLAND
TRYBE FOUNTAIN GATE, WESTFIELD FOUNTAIN GATE
TRYBE EASTLAND, EASTLAND SHOPPING CENTRE

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

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



What is your name?

John Bernardo

What volunteer role do you do at the Dragons?

Under 18 girls coach

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

Sienna plays under 18 girls, Christian and Antony now play for the Krushers.

How long have you been at the Club?

Been at the club 13 years with Antony, Christian and Sienna all playing for the mighty Dragons.

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

Rachel, myself and our kids have made lifelong friends at a fantastic family club, and of course you can't go past "Grub nights", where else can you feed the family for \$3 each!!

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

Goal umpire, team manager and bar tender at grub. But by far my favourite role has definitely been coaching.

What do you do outside of the Dragons Football Club?

I spend my working hours as a hairdresser in East Bentleigh. I love eating out at a restaurant or pub, you can't go past a nice Ribeye Steak. When I get the chance I love getting out and wetting a fishing line and also love watching my beloved Magpies go about it.

What sport did you play as a kid?

I played AFL in my junior years but my favourite sport was definitely playing endless games of Bocce at family picnics and at my Nonno's (grandfather's) house every school holidays.

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

I'd love to be able to turn back time.

Dragons and Krushers training together

Thanks Pat and all the Krushers for having us for training. The U18s really enjoyed training with the Women's team.



It was nice to sing happy birthday to present U18 Dragon Lily Firth (18 yrs) and former Dragons now AFLW players Lucy and Steph Wales (21 yrs)! (Pictured below.)





COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

This week the U8s had a Bye.

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

We took on Beaumaris at their home ground this week. After coming off a positive team performance last week, the team was eager to continue with it.

The pre-game message to the team, as it is every week, was to attack the ball in numbers, pressure the opposition and make sure that we are always accountable to the opposition. The first half we were slightly off as a team and Beaumaris were able to capitalise on the scoreboard and gain the upper hand.

Pleasingly we were able to reset ourselves at halftime and the second half was a much-improved effort. Our ability to never give up is a strength of this group something that we should be proud of. The teams work rate lifted led by Aiden who was moved into the midfield along with Oli and Luke who both did not stop running. Reyan and Jack led from the front with their attack on the ball and tackling a real highlight for the team and Max was able to take advantage of this play by hitting the scoreboard for the team.

Although not our day today, still, some great positive signs of growth from individuals and the team. We farewelled one of our team members, Bodhi, who will be missed, he is off on an amazing trip around Australia with his family, we hope the Hill's have an amazing time.

U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

Another week, another really good performance by the team. We played against the East Brighton Vampires at home this week and started the game off well, being first to the ball and pressuring the opposition. We finished the first quarter on a high, though we did lose a couple of players to illness for the rest of the game.

The second quarter was another tight tussle; the Vampires started to gain ascendancy and were able to level the game heading into halftime. Unfortunately, the third and fourth quarters didn't go our way. As we started to tire, the opposition began to get on top and find space around the ground. The Dragons never stop trying, and once again, they should be very proud of their efforts. This week, I saw a big improvement in our attack on the ball when it was on the ground and in the contested parts of the game.

A shout-out to Boyd and Ari who put their hands up to play more game time in defence to cover the injured players. It was pleasing to see and showed great team spirit, as it meant they didn't get a chance to play up forward.

There is huge upside for this team, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve in the second half of the year as we continue to develop our skills.



U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON

The U11s took on Cheltenham on a beautiful sunny morning.



The on field positions of our team were flipped around this week, in an effort to bring some other players into the game and more importantly, on the scoreboard. Pleasingly, this worked fantastically with Zoe kicking a couple of goals in the 1st quarter, Tommy Davies slotting one, and Bronx doing the same.

We did the same thing in the second quarter with Tass and Hamish kicking their first goals for the club. We shared the ball around well and again our pressure on the opposition was relentless, allowing us to kick plenty of goals. Our contested efforts were on display, with Eli laying strong tackles and some great link up footy through the middle of the ground, by Tommy and Max Morel, Ethan and Darwell.

It was pleasing to see the whole group contribute to having a big win today, but it will be equally as important next week, when we come up against opposition that will present a more significant challenge for us.

Pictured: Co-captains Phoenix and Ethan. Congratulations to Ethan who played his 50th game! He'll run through the banner next week, when we have a home game.

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played St Pauls at home at Scammell on a perfect day for footy. After some strong training during the week, Jonah and Olly were our nominated Co-Captains and both boys played well.

We have a few boys out injured so only had 17 on the field today against an opposition coming off a big win with a full side so it was going to be a test. The opposition came to play and wanted it more early. They were beating us out of the middle and using it well in the forward line to lead us by 4 goals at half time and it would have been more if not for the efforts of Jimmy and Masaki down back.

At half time we challenged the boys to get back to what we know; doing the one-Percenters, kicking to space and working for each other. The boys seem to like a comeback in the 3rd Quarter and lifted their work rate. Leo and Big Stevie kicked inspiring goals and Thomas also chipped in for a couple of majors to get our nose in front at 3 quarter time.

In the last quarter the boys ran the opposition off their legs with Alex, Teddy and Finn leading the way. Finn kicked a beautiful snap goal over his shoulder and Jonah marked strongly in the square to kick another goal to seal the game.

A shaky start but a great 2nd half by all. Well done Dragons.

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



U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

On a fresh but sunny Scammell oval we played the unbeaten St Peters ARIK Team. We welcomed Anais to our team and after only one training session she ran out on game day and contributed in our forward line.

We got off to a great start, our midfield dominating, Sophia proving to be dominate force in the ruck and around the ground, kicking our first goal. The ball was living in our forward half with Jess and Kiana keeping the ball locked into our forward 50 allowing Victoria to have two sets shots on goal and slotting one home. 14 – 0 at quarter time.

It got a lot tighter in the second, though with Mabel in our midfield we kept our intensity and pressure high and the ball moving. Emily was everywhere, racing down the wings and into our forward line, creating opportunities to score though that silly shaped ball just refuses to bounce nicely for her. Pippa was great, getting into the packs and always hunting the ball and because of her pressure Kiana was able to sweep clear and kick our third goal and stay 14 points up at half time.

The match turned into a slog with St Peters coming out after half time full of energy and run. Mia and Lois had their hands full in defence as St Peters streamed forward with attack after attack. Though we kept them to only one goal we didn't trouble the scoreboard and went into the last quarter with a one goal lead.

We have led at $\frac{3}{4}$ time in all our matches this season, we knew it would be a challenge to hold onto the lead having no bench and less players on the field. Anastasia ran through the middle and used her skilful kicks to try move the ball forward. Giann threw herself fearlessly into tackles and packs against bigger opponents. Skye's two way running from our backline to our forward line was stoic though in the end we just run out of steam and St Peters got the win 3.2.20 to 3.6.24

As a coach and parent I always leave the field knowing the girls gave their best efforts, worked hard to the very end and because of that I have full confidence and trust in them that with their champion mindset the wins will come our way. Go Dragons!

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Our u14s girls headed to East Malvern on a perfect afternoon to take part in truly one of the grittiest, toughest, injury ravaged, emotionally draining (for the staff and parents) and most courageous wins we've seen in a long time. The winning scoreline of 28-12 certainly does not do justice to what our girls faced and endured all day.

We knew we had a huge fight on our hands with the way East Malvern came out and played in the first 10min. Unfortunately not long after that we lost Sienna L for the rest of the day from a heavy bump, the first of 4 players to not play again. After conceding the first goal, to think that we'd keep them goalless for the rest of the game just typifies the fight and determination in this wonderful group of footy players.

It was a brutal game to coach and watch, especially after having Miette, Layla, Zoe and Sienna all forced out of the game for the last quarter, meaning no bench and one less on the field. But we just urged these girls to keep going, dig deep for one last effort.

Huddle and hands in before the start of the 4th quarter and our parting words were - girls this will be one helluva win. And they delivered.

Although we were running out of legs, we just needed to maintain the pressure, kick a couple of goals and keep possession. Yana made sure we got those 2 goals and speaking of possession, Lucia played like she was possessed, producing an outstanding 4 quarter 2 goal game of relentless running and tackling and being awarded a clear best on ground by the opposition coach.



East Malvern continually pressured us with their inside 50s in the last quarter but we just defended like our lives depended on it, with Semira on the last line superb and poised. Elaine was put everywhere, Millie harassed and tackled, while el Capitan Milly was fantastic against a much taller spring-heeled ruck.

Our mids and wings again were fantastic running both ways and our forward quartet were outnumbered in the last quarter but worked hard together to get our goals. Kudos also goes to Lavinia for playing as hard as she could with a couple of injuries, and not wanting to come off the ground and leave the team short. In the end it was a brilliant result against the odds. You girls showed us all how you can roll up your sleeves when the going gets tough.

Just a final point to make on the spirit in this team - the values that our girls showed in this game were truly representative of the Dragons ethos "Through football, better citizens". Super proud of this team of legends!

Goals - Lucia, Yana 2 each

U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

This weekend the u15 boys went down to Caulfield South to face AJAX.

The boys knew it was going to be a challenge with a few key players out but they didn't drop their heads and fought well. Troy Morton and Oscar Lacey, two bottom agers, had their best game for the year under my coaching tenure off the half-back line. The boys were able to read and intercept the ball and provide good defensive rebound options up the ground. Hunter Hayes also starred off the midfield playing his role and also sneaking forward and kicking a cracker of goal from the boundary.

Unfortunately, the boys ended up losing to AJAX by 105pts however, we shift our focus to 2 weeks' time when we face Prahran after a BYE weekend which we look to gain some more cattle back from injuries.

U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

The U18 girls had a Bye this week.

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY



As we conclude National Volunteers Week, I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers that help make the Oakleigh Dragons a great place to be. From the President, Secretary and Committee Members to the game day volunteers that ensure our kids get to play every Sunday. THANK YOU!

Sunny conditions greeted us at Scammell this week as we took on the Beaumaris Sharks. With our



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ROUND 7 / SUNDAY 26 MAY

opposition only having 14 players, it was nice to have some interchange players for a change.

The girls played a great first half and were aggressive at the ball. We were rewarded on a number of occasions for great tackles and getting in first for the ball. The second half saw the sharks kick away with the game as we couldn't make the most of our forward thrusts.

It was good to hit the scoreboard today with Lauren, Bridget and Ruby all kicking nice goals. Nat played a great game in the centre and took marks, laid tackles and used the ball well when she got possession. Bridget was prolific again and gave us lots of run through the middle and kicked long into our forward line. Sophie B tried hard all day and had lots of important touches. Jess played her goalkeeper role for 3 quarters before going into the midfield to give us some run in the last quarter. Emma keeps improving and played another good game, using her body to win the ball and use it effectively.



Well done girls. Let's really enjoy the remainder of the season.

Pictured: Steve Blight our Team Manager and Lindsay Armatas, Goal Umpire.



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
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						

