THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Dragons,

Thanks to the fantastic Grub hosted by the U11 mixed team on Sunday night. Fantastic effort and well done. The selection of desserts are getting better every Grub and this one didn't disappoint.

Congratulations Josh Seabrook from the U15 Boys on the 100 Game milestone on the weekend.

It was great to host our three girl's teams at Scammell during the SMJFL's Women and Girls Round, there was some great football on display during these matches. From the U12 Girls who started the season with just 12 girls, the minimum to take the ground, who now have 17 players and sit 4th on their ladder. The U14 Girls fought hard in a top of the ladder clash with St. Peters and displayed some very exciting passages of play all over the ground. Then the U18 Girls hit the ground and played exceptionally well until their game was cut short in an injury stopped match. Well done to all three Girls teams.

Back in Issue 8 of the Acorn I made mention of playing or watching some tough football. If you look up the word resilience it mentions about the ability to recover quickly from or withstand difficulties. Something that our players show in most circumstances. Remembering that, for the most part, our players just want to play footy with their mates. We as Parents and mentors need to guide them through some tough days, remind them to play the ball, don't get baited or sucked in by what the opposition are doing or saying, not to question or argue with the umpires call and above all to play fairly, play with the absolute correct amount of sportsperson-ship that they can and keep the car ride home discussion as positive as we can even when you didn't get the win. If we can all guide and be guided by these actions we will be living the Club Motto, "Through Football Better Citizens"

We have three weeks off now to reset and recover and then come back fresh to finish off season '24. Round 10 is back on 14 July and Grub that night is hosted by the combined U12 Girls and U14 Girls.

Enjoy your time off. Travel safely if you are heading away and I'll see you around the grounds in July. Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

2024 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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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

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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Matisse Sullivan, U18 Girls

CONGRATULATIONS

Josh Seabrook, U15 Boys

100 GAMES

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS

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

UMPIRE ESCORT ROLE

Umpire Escorts must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid WWCC uploaded in PlayHQ.

The Umpire Escort must escort Field Umpires to and from the ground at the start of the match, during breaks, and at the end of the match. Umpire Escorts should offer drinks to the Umpires during breaks (ask your Team Manager for a water bottle).

The Umpire Escort is responsible for monitoring the Interchange. Players must enter and leave the field during a game via the designated Interchange Area unless a Player is injured. An injured Player may leave the field wherever is convenient and safe to do so, but their replacement must enter via the Interchange Area, and only once the injured Player is off the field.

The Umpire Escort must stand near the Interchange area during play, and may stand immediately inside the fence (but doesn't necessarily need to).

The Club also asks that Umpire Escorts ensure all gates around the oval are secured during play, so as to prevent injuries to Players on the field.

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PLEASE REMEMBER

THIS IS A GAME

THE PLAYERS ARE CHILDREN

THE UMPIRES ARE HUMAN

THE COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

We are half way through the 2024 season, but the Committee is already looking ahead to next season. We have a number of Committee vacancies coming up 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 (next held on **Wednesday 26 June at 7pm**) or contact a current member to see how you can help in a role, big or small!

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

For more information:
secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com

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CITY OF MONASH

SHAPE YOUR MONASH

FOR 2025-2029 AND BEYOND

WE WANT YOU TO SHAPE THE STRATEGIES AND PLANS THAT PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR YOUR COUNCIL.

Visit shape.monash.vic.gov.au/vision to:

- Complete our community survey, feedback closes **14 July**
- Nominate to be part of our community panel

There are $100 gift cards as prizes for completing the survey, and community panel members will be compensated for their time.

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.

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

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What is your name?

Cara Weymouth

What volunteer role do you do at the Dragons?

U15s Team Manager

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

U15s

How long have you been at the Club?

On and off since 2005. I was team manager for my brother's team for a few years here and there up until 2011. I came back to the club in 2016 when my own son started playing under 8s and I again team managed.

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

My favourite thing about our club is how it feels like one big extended family.

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

Trainer and all the parent volunteer roles.

What do you do outside of the Dragons Football Club?

I'm the Child and Youth Family Peer Specialist for Alfred Health. I work with the families of children diagnosed with any type of Mental Health condition.

I'm also a mum to my 3 children. Aged 15, 8 and 15 months.

Between the 3 children, my husband, work, children's extra activities and housework, I'm kept very busy 7 days a week.

What sport did you play as a kid?

Kick boxing and bowling.

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

To click my fingers and have all my house work done.

COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

We were hosted by Hampton Rovers on Sunday morning. We asked the kids to arrive a bit earlier so we could get a proper warm up in, and thanks to all the children we were able to do this and it showed in 1st quarter as the ball spent most of the quarter in our forward line, but we found it hard to score.

We definitely started better this week but now our focus will be on putting 4 quarters together. Max B had a brilliant game showing really good marking as well as ball skills around the ground, we also had Zac and Cooper C play their best football for the year. The second half was a bit one sided as we struggled to clear the ball from the midfield, as Hampton kicked away, the game wasn't high scoring a credit to all the kids who played in defence.

Thanks again to all the parent helpers Go Dragons!!

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

Wow what a performance from the under 9s. This week we took on Waverley Park at Scammell with a nice early start to our Sunday. After the Kings Birthday bye, it was crucial to start the game well which is something that has been a focus for us as the year has progressed.

The scoreboard was close at the first break as we missed some opportunities, but it was the way we were playing that we focused on. Our midfield was leading the way dominating clearance through a strong work rate outnumbering the opposition and providing our forwards with plenty of opportunities to score.

The second term started the same way with similar results to the first whereby we were unable to capitalise on the scoreboard. However, the pressure was mounting on the opposition, and we spoke about this at the break that eventually scoreboard results would come.

In the second half we were rewarded with our persistence and teamwork to finish off our strong play. Our defence was impenetrable holding the opposition to 1 goal for the half which was equally as pleasing as being able to convert some goals. Oli and Aiden led from the front with their work rate throughout the game and scoreboard impact, Sam K and Reyan were applying their trademark pressure, and Lex, Luke, Sam and Max were able to contribute on the scoreboard.

It was a real team effort today from start to finish resulting in a fantastic outcome for the kids singing the club song loud and proud, although some work may be required in the delivery of the song.

The team is going from strength to strength and really gelling together well. Both myself and Dan (my assistant coach) are proud of the group, as I am sure all the parents are too.

U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

A tough day on the road to play Brighton at their beachside ground. The windy conditions were expected; however, it was the first time we had to play in such challenging weather. Brighton capitalised early, kicking with the wind and hitting the scoreboard. Our midfield stood up in the latter part of the quarter, limiting their advantage. In the second quarter, unfortunately, we found ourselves stuck on the wrong side of the field, and the ball kept floating out of bounds for a period. Koby kicked a great goal to keep us in the contest, following strong work by the midfield to move the ball forward. The ball spending 90% of the game in 2/3rds of the ground due to the wind.

The third quarter mirrored the first, with Brighton again exploiting the breeze. To be fair, there were a couple of impressive goals from about 30 meters out by the opposition. Once more, our midfield battled impressively, but we struggled to capitalise on the few chances we had. Heading into the final quarter, we were firmly chasing the game. To our credit, we fought hard until the end, applying pressure throughout. We did manage to score in the last quarter and finish the game on a high note.

The long break is going to give us some opportunities to work on our defence and locking the ball in the forward line. I think good things are just around the corner.

U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON

We took on Beaumaris on a cold Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We focused on 3 aspects of the game. Pressure, skills and having fun.

We got off to a good start with early goals to Ethan, Darwell and Charlie. Phoenix scored a goal later in the game and this was the difference in the two sides.

It was a great effort by everyone with the pressure from the side on a consistent basis for the four quarters.

Our captains for the week were Wyatt and Lucas (pictured) who led the team exceptionally well.

We still have a lot of room for improvement and a few weeks without a game, we can work on this at training.

Go Dragons!

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Cheltenham away today in a highly anticipated top of the table clash. Ben and Masaki were Co Captains as both boys trained the house down during the week and it was great to see them bring that form into the game.

Our focus today was getting better connection with our team mates when moving the ball forward. We trained around this during the week and the boys did it very well. Our backs and Mids were lowering their eyes and looking for the best option. The opposition coach even complemented us on this point after the game.

We had some unwell and injured boys and no bench so our lineup was a little different, but we still played our way and stayed in front all day. The opposition fought hard but couldn't match our numbers around the contest and ball use. Alex, Archer, Teddy and Jonah lead by example and ran all day.

Karlos, Thomas, Leo and David toiled hard at the contest with David earning the 1 Percenter Award today. Our backline really stood up when it counted lead by Masaki, Jimmy and James.

Down forward we had a good mix of goal scorers with Finn (2), Harrison, Thomas and Archer all kicking truly and that was enough to get us over the line.

Special mentions to Aryan playing up from the U10's and competing hard all game. Also Mahad for making the game for the final quarter on a special day for his family and Gregory and Finn for playing under duress and contributing well.

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Under 12 Girls Vs South Melbourne

Qtr 1
We hit the ground running with some strong clearances from Jess, Ruby, Soph and Skye in the middle. Anais was throwing herself into some great tackles as were Tyra, and Lois. Very impressive efforts. The supporting forwards with pressure keeping it in there in Pippa, Emily, Giann and Victoria led to an early goal to Soph to lead by 11 points.

Qtr 2
South M came at us strongly with repeat entries and surge, and through some stout defending, tackling and pressure from Lois, Mia, Mabel, and our impressive tackling and pressure defender Alexis, we managed to hold them off to hold an 8 point lead at halftime.

Qtr 3
Kiana decided that it was her time to take the game away from South Melbourne. Her presence, getting to contests, winning key one on ones, and elite goal kicking really stood out. Mia went forward and played a brilliant cameo, also answering the challenge. She took an amazing mark and great kick leading to a shot at goal for Victoria. Mia also made it to plenty of contests and her hard work and efforts at training were rewarded. Ruby A showed great vision and made a great pass to Kiana 20m out who goaled. The midfield worked tirelessly all game supported on the wings at various stages by Lois, Emily, Anais, and Mabel. It aided us to a nice buffer of 22 points going into the last change.

Qtr 4
Time to run and really work together, we pushed home the advantage with some great teamwork and constant pressure. Our theme in the last quater was to run hard and support each other. Mia had her best game for us, particularly up forward, Emily and Giann went back into defence for the team, Victoria got better as the game went on and got 2 goals. Pippa almost kicked a miraculous goal from near the boundary unfortunately hitting the post, and the team ran out the game strongly.

Oakleigh 1.5 1.5 3.8. 6.9. 45pts
South Melbourne 0.0 0.3. 0.4. 1.4. 10pts

Goals: Victoria 2, Skye 1, Sophia 1, Kiana 1, Mia 1

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Our biggest test of the year so far, 1st vs 2nd, the last 2 unbeaten teams left and unfortunately it just wasn't our day, going down in an extremely tight tussle 23-21.

The opposition sprung a surprise by playing a loose defender meaning we had one too but unfortunately their loose player ended up being their best player and however much we tried to quell her influence, she was just a touch too classy and gave them plenty of forward drive.

To our credit, we defended admirably while holding the lead for most of the game. Our mids/wings were fantastic, working double time to get back to help although poor Semira was stuck on the last line of defence against a much bigger and taller opponent who ultimately kicked them the winning goal.

I reiterated before the game - stay in front of your opponent, stay in the play and stay connected. This was all carried out at a high level today and you just can't deny the fight that this group has. The quick hands, the link up plays, the shepherding and the run down tackles... Our girls have clicked and will be exciting to see what they have to show for the rest of the season.

Backline - AMAZING effort. Just repelled many, many of their forward entries.
Mids/wings - so much is expected from you girls and you always deliver. You took on my task of "running downhill and uphill" superbly and just never stopped all day.
Forwards - just wasn't our day. Constantly first to the ball but the ball just bounced the other way.
Another fantastic effort from our girls. I had quite a few people from outside of our team commenting on what a great game it was to watch.
Goals - Yana 2, Tash 1

Enjoy the break, safe travels and we go again in a few weeks.

U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

After a delayed start to the match, due to an injury to a player during the previous match, the Under 15 boys worked hard all match, but just couldn’t meet the thrust, speed and drive of Prahran. Well done to our boys for constantly trying against the top of the ladder team. Let’s move our focus to the next match with AJAX.

U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO / GAVIN KENNY

This week we had a home game at Scammell against St Kilda City. The girls were fired up after a week’s break and keen to support Matisse as she ran through the banner to celebrate her 50th game. It was a cold day so the girls on the bench needed to rug up while waiting to get their turn on the field.

A good first quarter saw the Dragons get a couple of goals on the board. Ayla got a free kick close to goal and went back and slotted it through. The second goal came from some fancy footwork and running from Sienna who kicked a nice goal across her body.

The Saints responded, and at half time they had a 2 goal lead. Early in the third quarter, it looked like being an even second half when a serious injury to a St Kilda City player halted the game.

Unfortunately the game didn't restart and the game was abandoned with the Saints being declared winners. A disappointing way to end the game, but we hope the injured player is OK and makes a good recovery.

On a positive note for the Dragons, Emily, Sienna, Freya and Bridget dominated in the midfield while Lily, Nat and Jess did some good things down back.

I hope to see everyone at training this week before we enjoy the well-deserved break over the school holidays.

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
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**					