



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 3

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons families,

What a stunning day for footy we had for Round 2! It's probably a bit warm for our players, but welcomed by our spectators. Another busy day at Scammell, with the U11s mixed and the U15 girls bookending the day, both playing against the enormous and very skilled East Brighton sides. The U11 Mixed team started off really well, but East Brighton had a huge bench and really accurate kicks. Our boys did not give up, kept the pressure on and showed great resilience right through to the final siren. The U12 Mixed team were up next and showed some real promise in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. Although Cheltenham came away with the win, our boys' skill was evident in their kicking and tackling. The U14 girls game was super low scoring, with only 16 points being scored in the whole game - the pressure that our Dragons girls put on Prahran was so impressive. This team is definitely one to watch this season! The last game I got to watch was the U15 girls, who were up against the reigning Premiers in Division 1. The Dragons spirit was once again on display, with our girls making the East Brighton team work hard for every possession. Overall, a fantastic day of footy down at Scammell!

Remember that these first four games are an opportunity for us to find our best format, play in different positions, and learn from the opposition. If you're suffering great losses, keep your head up and remember to have fun and maintain great sportsmanship, like a true Dragon!

It was great to see Miette run through the banner in her 50th game for the U14 girls - a wonderful milestone for a really talented player, congratulations Miette! On the flipside, we've had some serious injuries in the first two rounds, and our hearts go out to players (and their families) who have had this upsetting start to the season - please stay connected to your teams, there's always a job you can do whilst you're recovering & waiting to come back and you're still a crucial part of your team!

Don't forget next week - Oakleigh Amateur Football Club (OAFC) will be hosting their Annual BCNA (Breast Cancer Network Australia) Charity Luncheon on Saturday. In partnership with the Oakleigh Dragons, the OAFC is collecting donations to fill hampers that will be raffled on the day in support of this important cause. If you or a local business you know would like to contribute, please reach out to Emily Heverin on 0479 071 145. You can also buy tickets for the luncheon at <https://www.oakleighafc.org.au/product/bcna-ladies-lunch/>

Please take a moment to chat with your child/ren about our Club's Code of Conduct. It's important that everyone — players, spectators, and officials — understands what's expected when it comes to showing respect, playing fair, and creating a positive environment. These expectations come from both our Club and the League, and help make footy fun and safe for everyone involved.

See you next week for Mother's Day — hope all the teams have something special to serve up to the Mums, Grandma's & special women in their lives on Sunday.

Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold, President

### 2025 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Justine Leopold  
Vice President: Ross Black  
Secretary: Caz Hayes  
Treasurer: Volker Heinze  
Registrar: Kane Leopold  
Compliance Officer: Vacant  
Property Officer: Emma Hastings  
Canteen Manager: Kai Deorffus  
Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock  
Social Media: Vacant

Football Operations Manager: Ross Black  
Team Manager Coordinator: Sharon Stevenson  
First Aid Coordinator: Emily Heverin  
Child Safety Officer: Kathleen Windsor/Christelle Perez  
Boys & Mixed Coaching Coordinator: John McLaughlin  
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo  
Junior/Senior Club Liaison: John Bernardo  
Incident Coordinator: Caz Hayes  
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn  
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:  
Annelise Scott  
Justin Scott  
Sarah Arnott  
Joel Harrison (U10M)  
Kathleen Windsor (U12M)  
Lisa & Dave Falla (U13M)  
Justine Karauria (U15G)  
Lisa & David Gee (U16B)

## 2025 MAJOR SPONSORS



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# THE ACORN

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ROUND 2 / 4 MAY

## MILESTONE GAMES!

# CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Miette Windsor, U14 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](mailto:a.sturrock76@gmail.com)







## REMINDERS

### PLEASE REMEMBER

This is a game.

The players are children.

The umpires are human.

The coaches are volunteers.

Treat them with respect.

Verbal abuse and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

You have all signed a Code of Conduct, so play and support the Dragons according to that code.

Get behind our teams and give them the positive support they need and deserve.

**GO DRAGONS!**



## Harcourts Next Gen Oakleigh



**A Prized Opportunity in the School Zone**

*Welcome to...*

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# UNIFORM SALES

**TO ORGANISE THE PURCHASING OF  
UNIFORM, CONTACT EMMA ON  
0411 966 226**

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## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we were hosted by Waverley Park Hawks. The game started off well, pretty even on both sides but towards the end of the first quarter we were not playing how we have been practising. We had some individual efforts in the first quarter with Zephan and Sasha again continuing on from last week. After setting a goal for each of the players for the second quarter where we aimed for three tackles, three kicks and three handballs per quarter with some of the team able to reach his target with Byron and AJ leading the way.

After recharging in the change rooms, we addressed the kids to just go out and have fun. We started the third quarter off and this showed in the way they played with a lot more tackles being landed and a lot more direct kicks and also hitting the scoreboard with a position change for Elijah, he instantly showed his presence in the forward line.

We didn't get to sing a song at the end of the game, but everyone tried really hard. Congratulations on Freddie and Penelope on their first game for the Dragons. Better luck next week.

Go Dragons!!

### U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The under 10's this week took on St Bedes Mentone away and were fortunate to be gifted the afternoon slot which I am sure all the parents were happy for the sleep in!!

There was a strong breeze to one end which added a layer of difficulty for the kids to adjust to, knowing how to play with and against the breeze. During the first quarter we took full advantage of the conditions and played some fast and direct footy that enable us to hit the scoreboard well with Max looking particularly dangerous forward. We followed that up in the second term with some strong defensive play against the breeze.

Unfortunately, as the game wore on the opposition were able to capitalise more efficiently by moving the footy from clearances much more freely (something we can work on) and in turn run the game out in the hot afternoon conditions a little bit better.

I could not fault the effort of our kids who fought it out valiantly right to the end. Our tackling pressure was exceptional all day, highlighted by some great defensive pressure acts by Xavier, Reyan, Luca, Luke and Bodhi.

Go Dragons!!

### U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Round 2 vs East Brighton Vampires

It was great to be out on Scammell where we kicked off the dew at 8am in what proved to be a really challenging match for our boys.

We got off to a flyer with the magic man Jim Moschoyiannis kicking the first goal of the game. The boys really got around each other, celebrating the goal with gusto!





From there though, unfortunately it was all one-way traffic. The Vampires dominated across the field, and were able to lock the ball in their forward line. They peppered the goals for much of the first half, keeping our Dragon defenders on their toes. The ball lived down their end, and it took some dour defending to stop the game from completely blowing out.

In the second half we challenged the boys to match East Brighton's intensity. The game was played in great spirits, but we were second to the ball in the first half and then didn't really apply the pressure we are capable of. That started to change in the second half, with our midfielders and defenders lifting their pressure, and we saw a lift in our intensity. A highlight for the game was in the last quarter the backline stood firm, allowing only 1 goal through in what was a sign that the boys never give up.

A shout out to the boys missing, and to our fill ins. We had 3 boys unavailable this week and were grateful that 4 under 10 boys stepped in. We had a couple of injuries in the game too, so without these 4 boys, it would have been really hard. To Max A, Angus K, Reyan S and Sam H – a very big thank you!

We now look forward to our third grading game on Mother's Day.

Finally a big shout out to Archer who is nursing a broken ankle – your coaches and teammates wish you a speedy recovery and we look forward to you coming back bigger and stronger later in the season.

## U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Cheltenham/Highett on a beautiful Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure, taking the game on and having fun.

The wind just got up before the game started and unfortunately we lost the toss and were kicking against the breeze in the first quarter. The opposition jumped us and they were a few goals ahead by quarter time.

During the second and third quarters we started to play well and were more competitive and ended up kicking a few goals ourselves, if we had made the most of our opportunities there could have been even more. Max, Tommy, Maison, Wyatt and Ethan were our targets forward and were great options and always competed hard.

We started the game with 18 players and the lack of rotations and rest caught up with us by the end of the game. We battled well all day and the extra players from the opposition resulted in us running out of legs and a few boys playing a bit sore and tired.

It was a great effort by everyone with special mention to Charlie, Bronx, Andrey, James S, Hamish, Theo, Kai, Eli, Phoenix, Hugh, Anastasios and Hugh.

Our captains for the week were Maison and Darwell who led the team exceptionally well.

We still have a lot of room for improvement and we can work on this at training and bring it out game day.

Go Dragons!

**U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS**

Game 2 was another friendly this time against South Melbourne at Princes Freeway Reserve. There must be something in the water out by the bay because this was another tall team with lots of girl numbers. We started off with some strong defence and lots of tackles by our experienced girls. Second quarter we faded a bit but managed a couple of runs down the ground, unfortunately not converting to points on the board.



Third quarter we were starting to put some pressure on, but due to two injuries, we concluded the game at three quarter time. I'm really proud of the girls' determination and resilience. Although we're a new team we've already formed strong friendships and injuries are a setback for everyone. But when the going gets tough, the tough get going and we're going to regroup and come back strong next week.

3-2-1-Go Dragons!

**U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK**

We played Dingley away today for our 2nd grading game and Teddy was our nominated Captain. Teddy always gives 100% at training and is a real team player so earned the captaincy. He led by example today with non-stop running and racked up loads of possessions and was always looking to share the footy with his team mates.

Dingley are a big side and play a very physical game so our boys knew it would be hot in the contest. We had an emphasis on supporting and protecting each other in tight and the boys did that pretty well for 4 quarters putting on strong blocks and shepherds.

Harrison kicked a nice snap from the pocket to get us started and the boys never looked back. Finn played a great game, had plenty of the footy and kicked 4 majors while Thomas, Jonah, Archer and Teddy also hit the scoreboard.



The backline held up well again with Masaki, Karlos intercepting everything and Greg and Jimmy playing strong, smart footy to provide bounce off the flanks. It was also great to see Ben H get plenty of the ball down back and on a wing and send it forward.

Our mids were relentless again today with Alex doing a mountain of work, Jonah also fighting hard and Jon P standing up when he needed to.

We are training to find more connection as we move the ball down the ground so it was promising to see players lowering their eyes coming forward and hitting targets. It was pleasing to see the boys' confidence growing with their high marks as this is an area we know we need to improve on. While most of the boys tried leaping at the ball, we had at least half a dozen players leaping to mark the footy at its highest point and hopefully we'll see more of this as the season progresses.

We had winners all over the ground today and appeared to be a class above the opposition so while it was a strong win, I doubt we'll see them in the season proper so will continue to work hard and strive to get better.

Well played Dragons.

## U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Today we celebrated Miette's 50th match at Scammell in tough windy and warm conditions.



We welcomed Prahran on Sunday and they got off to a flyer kicking a quick goal with the wind in the first couple of minutes but that's when the match turned into an arm wrestle.



Alexis was her competitive best starting in the ruck and even though our backline was under siege Lois and Ruby T made sure to make every contest a battle. Into the wind we did have some moments to stream the ball forward with Bella on the wing winning plenty of the ball.

Starting the 2nd quarter with Mabel's ferociousness in the middle of the ground we again fought hard to get the ball down forward to Mia who worked hard all match with limited opportunities. A big thank you to Giann filling in for us too, up forward competing bravely when the ball was in the area. Ellie was working well, getting into great positions along our half forward line but we couldn't give her enough chances. We threw our goal sneak Victoria onto the ball and she was creative with her handball and linked up well with Kiana who keeps demonstrating great team play always trying to get the ball to teammates in better positions.

At half time and only 7 points down it felt like all we needed was a goal to create some scoreboard pressure as the match was evenly poised. Lavinia was playing an amazing match down back, intercept marking and winning contest after contest. If it went over her we had Semira sweeping across the back line stopping attack after attack. After a half of non-stop running and tackling Ruby A went down back to help out. Her and Miette getting on the end of Semira's raking kicks out of the backline and racing down our wings working tirelessly to get the ball up forward.

We were still in the match at 3 qtr time and we tried everything to get Skye and Sophia the ball up forward. They tried everything to inject themselves into the game moving into the midfield to try get our run and carry going but it was just one of those days when the ball didn't want to bounce your way. It was a very frustrating match for our girls in the forward line.

Having no bench the girls' effort and determination to compete is something to be proud of, me and all that watched admired their spirit.

We didn't get to sing the song for Miette though with a desire to keep improving and working together it won't be long until we hear the "yellow and green" again.

## U15 GIRLS PAUL GEORGES

Round 2 saw us up against East Brighton at our ground again, on a blustery day which would ultimately test both teams.

It didn't take long for us to realise that we were up against a very well coached and highly skilled opposition. But to our credit, we stuck with them the whole day and kept them to a relatively low score while we unfortunately could not register a goal despite having great patches where the ball was locked in our 50.

But their skills, fitness and ball movement proved to be the major difference between the two teams, going down 40-2.

Once again, Milly was at her brilliant best, bulldozing through players and providing plenty of forward movement. Astrid showed her fantastic in close game, with her awareness and evasiveness a stand out. Elaine and Layla were kept busy and defended well. Cam again rucked tirelessly, getting to the majority of contests.

We'll have to learn a lot from this loss as they were a very, very good side.

Hopefully Soph and Lucia recover during the week and back in the side on Mothers' day. Get to training girls, train hard and we go again Sunday.





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ROUND 2 / 4 MAY

## U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

This week the u16 boys travelled to Beaumaris for round 2. A different challenge with the match played on a much larger ground. Again this week there were 3 new debutants for the Dragons.

It was a tough start for the Dragons as Beaumaris kicked with the wind and made the most of their home ground advantage. Early injuries made it difficult for the Dragons to get into the game and the half time siren allowed the team to regroup. The second half was much improved from the boys, evening up the contest around the ball and getting more control of the footy. A highlight of the game being Ori finishing off a great team passage with a running goal. His first for Oakleigh.

The Dragons will look to learn from the game at training during the week and look forward to the next challenge in round 3.



### 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.

## 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



## 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
27-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	ANZAC Round	U10 Mixed
4-May	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Community Umpire Round	
11-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Wellness Round/ Mother’s Day	
18-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4		U9 Mixed
25-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Grill’d Round	
1-June	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Monash Round	U12M & U12G
8-June	No Games					
15-Jun	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		U13 Mixed
22-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		
29-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	TS4A Round	U11 Mixed
6-Jul	No Games					School Holidays
13-Jul	No Games					School Holidays
20-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		Committee
27-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	TAC Round	
3-Aug	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Girls
10-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	IKON Women & Girls Round	
17-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14	The TRYBE	U15 Girls
24-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15	The TRYBE	U16 Boys
31-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
7- Sep			Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals	Father’s Day	
14-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC PRESENTATION DAY, SCAMMELL RESERVE						

