



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 8

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

After a quick footy break thanks to the King's Birthday, it was wonderful to get back down to Scammell for some awesome home games. Thanks to the U13 Mixed team for hosting Grub this week – the amount and quality of food was brilliant and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all the teams who have hosted so far. It's definitely set the standard high for the teams who will be hosting in the 2nd half of the season!

The weather has turned cold and it feels like true footy weather, but it would be great to still see heaps of our spectators at the games – it lifts the vibe and the kids absolutely love having a large audience!

This week saw the introduction of a 'buddy system' between the U15 and the U11 girls teams. Similar to the primary school buddy system, the aim of this is to encourage connection between players in different teams – a focus on Club and Community as opposed to an emphasis only on 'team'. The U15 girls wrote messages of support to their buddies, and these were pasted around the main change room prior to the U11 girls game. It definitely seemed to lift the spirits of the U11 girls, who played a spectacular game and had their 1st win of the season!

Don't forget, if you have any ideas that you think will help add value to our fantastic Club, please feel free to have a chat to myself or any Committee member, or send me an email at president@oakleighdragons.com.au

A huge thank you to our sensational Team Managers – it's a super tricky job to do every week, especially at the moment when there seems to be a lot of changes to the league fixturing! Please get around your TM, show them your support and gratitude for yet another voluntary role that is being done so well at our Club. See you around the grounds!

Justine Leopold, President

GO DRAGONS

2025 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Justine Leopold
Vice President: Ross Black
Secretary: Caz Hayes
Treasurer: Volker Heinze
Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Vacant
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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



**CLAYTON &
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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

Charlie Dal Santo, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

James Satchell, U12 Mixed





CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

William Jackson, U13 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Theodore Konstantinidis, U13 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

SAVE THE DATE

Team photo day will be held on the 10 August.



*Team photo
day*

Photo times will be confirmed closer to the date, once the fixtures are known.
Please note photos will be taken before your footy match.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025

ISSUE 8

ROUND 7 / 15 JUNE

FOOTY TRIVIA NIGHT

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS SOCIAL NIGHT

FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025

\$20 TICKETS | TABLES OF 10 | 7PM START | SCAMMELL CLUBROOMS
BYO NIBBLES | DRINKS AT BAR PRICES
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS - NON FOOTY RELATED
FOOTY GEAR WELCOME | GOLD COIN GAMES & REVERSE BINGO

FOR TICKET SALES GO TO - WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCJAB

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COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we hosted Waverley Park Hawks at home, we came into the game with a game plan that we have been working on for the last few weeks and they implemented it well. It started off with instructions to roll with the ball side to side and by the end of the 1st quarter the game was very even, it was good footy to watch.

In the second we managed to stop the run of the opposition and created runs for ourselves, this showed that the instruction and simplified game plan worked. Our defence, especially without Zephen, really worked well together with some new faces, they stood tall with some really good passages of play.

We had some individual efforts in the first and second quarter with Elijah making several clearances and tackles, also Hamish marking overhead and gaining territory with some very good kicking.

After the break we started off really well and with hard work we started to enter the forward line with repeat entries. The 1%’s improved with a lot more tackles being landed and a lot more direct kicks and also hitting the scoreboard with a position change for Max B with five great shots, he instantly showed his presence in the forward line.

We did get to sing the song at the end of the game, because everyone tried really hard. Congratulations on a great game. Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The Under 10s took on Brighton Beach at home this weekend in what turned out to be a fiercely contested game from start to finish.

We found it tough in the first half, struggling to match the opposition’s intensity around the contest. Brighton Beach came out strong, and it took us a while to adjust to the pressure and pace of the game.

Despite the early challenges, our players showed fantastic resilience and lifted in the second half. The game became a real arm-wrestle in the last quarter, and we are proud of the way our team responded—holding their ground and continuing to fight hard for every possession.

Hugo, Luke, and Sam H were standouts for 4 quarters, battling hard all day and leading the way with their work rate and determination. Patrick and Flora laid some brilliant tackles that were rewarded with free kicks, showing great technique and commitment to the contest.

Up forward, Max gave us a lift in the second half. He worked tirelessly to create opportunities with limited supply and was finally rewarded when he hit the scoreboard for the team—an effort that really reflected our improved second-half intensity.



Although we did not come away with a win, there is a lot to be proud of in how we handled the pressure and kept competing right until the final siren. Great effort, Dragons - let's keep building on this and come back stronger next week!

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Undermanned but enthusiastic, the boys went down to Brindisi Street and took the chocolates against St Bedes Mentone Tigers.

We've had some incredible support from the U9's and U10's this season, but with clashes in game time and sickness we weren't able to rely on reinforcements this week. We are super grateful for the support from James and Dan – in a few instances we may not have had a game without them.

Our numbers didn't deter the boys however, and they jumped out of the blocks. St Bedes jumped us last time we played, so starting strong was something we talked about as a team before the game and our first quarter was really pleasing.

From there, our boys controlled the game with Jimmy and Koby each kicking 4 goals and a host of others kicking 1 including Chris who spent some time forward this week. Had it not been for inaccuracy in front of goal we would have had plenty more goal kickers – but we'll work on that at training this week.



Captain Krishiv led the way all day, revving up the boys pre-game and then at half time, and then demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship immediately after the game in support of our opposition and the way they played. This sportsmanship is what we've been focused on more so than the scoreboard and I'm pleased to see our players are showing great respect to their opposition, playing in the true spirit of the Dragons.

Shout out to Jago and Francesco who both got injured in our game, meaning we ended up with 14 on the ground. Both boys were playing so well and we hope that they recover quickly. Also big shout out to all the families who got down to support the boys – we are very lucky to have you committing to our games especially given we are down on numbers.

Thanks to all the volunteers!

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Sunday morning was a home game at Scammell against East Malvern.

I might stop hassling everybody for more players because we now have 15 in the team! Congrats to the girls who have recently joined and played their first games with Dragons.

The under 11's and under 15s have started a buddy system and the girls really appreciated the lovely notes from their older club mates. A mini pep-talk from Maddy a recent AFLW recruit, set the girls up with a winning mind-set. We hit the ground running with a goal in the first 20 seconds! Some big tackling from the girls and handball to their teammates ensured most of the quarter was played in our forward half.



Second quarter we kept the pressure on East Malvern with some more big tackles. Handballs and kicking under pressure resulted in three more goals. One particularly beautiful play was when our ruck tapped it to one of our centres, who then handballed it on to one of our forward players. I can see how much the girls' footy skills have improved throughout the season.

At half time the girls had big smiles on their faces and it was obvious how much fun they were having on the field. After some oranges and lollies they were ready to ride that sugar high for the second half of our game.

Our backs did a wonderful job of keeping the pressure on ensuring East Malvern scored as little as possible. Our centre players were marvellous moving around the ground quickly and keeping up those big tackles.

The last quarter seem to go very quickly with a lot of brave tackles and one more goal to finish off East Malvern. Some of our new players got lots of touches and our more experienced girls were great role models for them with some really big kicks, courageous tackles and some nimble moves through the centre. Our back line was unusually quiet but we didn't mind because by the end of the match we had won by 20 points.



After a big celebration, the girls made a guard of honour to cheer the under 15 girls team onto the ground. Then we headed into the change rooms to sing the club song at the top of our voices with a huge support crew in there with us. I'm so proud of the girls for their first win, thank you to all the parent helpers and to everybody who's stuck with us, and believed in us for the first half of the season. Maybe the weekends off suit us? We have a bye next week so we will come back strong the week after in round nine

Thanks to the U13's Mixed team for hosting grub at the club Sunday night, always a good feed and even better company.

3-2-1 Dragons!



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 ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on St Pauls Doggies on a beautiful Sunday morning at McKinnon Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure and hitting targets.

In the first half we tried our best and were only trailing by a few goals at half time.

Following half time we moved the team around as much as we could to close the gap but St Pauls were too good on the day. The ground was bigger than normal and with a lack of rotations it was going to be a tough ask to close the margin. Everyone tried their best and can't wait for next week.

Our captains for the week were Charlie and James S (pictured) who led the team exceptionally well. Congratulations to both of them on playing their 50th games. Well done.

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

Go Dragons!



U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played East Sandringham at Scammell this weekend and celebrated the 50 game milestone for 2 much loved boys in the group; Teddy and Will. Both boys played their hearts out on a very windy day which made for tricky conditions.

The opposition have spent recent years in Div 1 so while an unknown quantity for us, they were always going to be a quality opposition and a great benchmark for our boys to understand where we are at right now.

In a low scoring affair both teams had their nose in front at times over the first 3 quarters. Our on ball brigade did their thing and ran all day and we asked for more effort from the rest of the group in the way of shepherding, chasing & harassing the opposition to slow down their run. It was great to see everyone buy in. In particular, Nate worked really hard as a defensive forward and it was good to see Ollie put his body on the line for his team mates. The standout in the area of working for his mates today was Archer. He played a fantastic physical game and ran hard all day to support his team mates and get to the next contest.

Our defence was disciplined and are really starting to click as a unit with Jimmy, Jon and Masaki leading the way. Down forward we still have work to do in finding connection with our mids but they toiled hard and it was great to see David G kick a nice goal.

Goal of the day went to Alex though thanks to a trademark bullocking run before slamming the ball through into the wind from 35. A real team lifter.

Unfortunately we fell away a little in the last quarter against the wind while the opposition put on a couple of goals. The boys fought to the final second but it just wasn't our day.

Very proud of the effort and looking forward to getting stuck in at training so we can keep on building into the season.

Well done Dragons.

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

This Sunday we played away to the undefeated Mordi-Brae team and unfortunately they are still undefeated.

Kicking with the wind in the first quarter, Mordi-Brae did all the attacking and to our girls credit we held them to only a couple of goals.

When we got the wind in the 2nd quarter we weren't able to put them under the same amount of pressure though our girls fought hard across the ground.

The third quarter was a carbon copy of the first, our girls working well together, competing yet not getting rewarded for their efforts.

At 3 quarter time, down by 10 goals and we still hadn't troubled the scoreboard it would be understandable for the girls to drop their heads, sook it up and let Mordi - Brae run away with a massive win.....but not our girls.



In true Dragon spirit they continued to take it up to their opposition, running for each other, chasing and tackling and competing bravely to the very end. It was that final quarter that showed we are a team that will always battle regardless of the score.



The girls combined with great team work and pressure and created 2 goals and finished the game on a high.

The challenge set for the girls today was not to be the best player but the best teammate, the hardest worker, the most accountable and for me I feel the girls accepted and achieved the goals set for them.

We didn't get the result but we showed improvement in all our processes and I couldn't be prouder.

U15 GIRLS PAUL GEURGES

The under 15 girls seemed quiet and low in energy before the game started. But I didn't realise that they were quietly building into beast mode to prepare for the top team in the league.

With one player down all game, they executed our game plan to perfection for 3 and a half quarters until they could no longer keep up with East Brighton who finished the game strongly.

But boy oh boy did we annoy and harass and upset their game plan with relentless tackling and pressure. They didn't know what was happening. How can this team with only 14 players be taking it right up to them?

It all started with Layla in the ruck, giving first use of the footy, and our mids, Lucia, Astrid and Sienna winning the clearances and surging the ball forward. Milly Black was huuuuge at Centre Half Forward – presenting all day and in absolute beast mode from the first ball up.

Our defence played as a unit and were very strong, led by co-captain Elaine, and the safest hands in the league, Lucy. And Natasha ran and ran and tackled all day along the wing. Maddie was so brave to play when recovering from an ankle injury. She knew we were down a player but she pushed through and still contributed, applying pressure on the forward line, taking marks and setting up others for shots on goal.

A fantastic team performance against very strong opposition. With each girl contributing and sticking to the game plan, I couldn't be prouder of the girls. It was an enormous effort, and we now know that the top team in the league are beatable. Lessgo Dragons.



U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The U16 Boys headed down the road to face Ormond on a chilly and gusty Sunday afternoon.

With no bench and against the wind in the first quarter, the Dragons were up against it early. After a couple of early goals to Ormond, the boys settled in and began gaining the advantage around the contest. Despite the control around the ground, it didn't translate to the scoreboard however the signs were there that the boys were up for the fight.

With the wind in the second quarter and the Dragons down by four goals, slick ball movement into the forwards helped the Dragons kicked five goals to three to win the quarter and cut the margin to two goals going into half time.

Coming out after half time with renewed confidence, the boys knuckled down and, against the wind, held Ormond off the scoreboard for the first half of the third quarter with a great performance by the defensive unit. A few late goals to Ormond opened the margin to six goals at the final break with the boys remaining confident they could reel that margin in.



The Dragons fought back hard and largely controlled the footy throughout the final quarter. Repeat inside 50's led to the Dragons closing the margin to three goals late in the final quarter. The clock quickly became the Dragons' worst enemy, and a late goal to Ormond meant the boys couldn't complete the comeback and ultimately fell short by 24 points.

An exceptional effort all around with numerous injuries and illnesses in the squad. The boys are continuing to build steadily with ball movement from defence to forward starting to look outstanding. They're continuing to learn from previous weeks with the reward for effort just around the corner.

Congratulations to Lachlan Wilks, Player of the Week (pictured).

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
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		U11 & 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						

