



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons families,

Well the season is already 8 rounds in and Winter has hit hard this week - with lots of sickness spreading around the teams. The WhatsApp groups are abuzz with messages regarding player movement, volunteer roles needing to be filled, and of course a fair bit of footy banter!

Round 8 proved a tough one for our teams at Scammell Reserve, with several hard-fought losses and a few unfortunate injuries. Despite the challenges, it was heartening to see our teams lined up together post-match, with captains delivering respectful speeches and players holding their heads high. The Dragons spirit is all about resilience and unity - and yesterday, that spirit was well and truly tested. Our teams showed not only grit but genuine sportsmanship in the face of adversity.

Congratulations to Patrick Davey for his sensational milestone of 100 games! And to Millie Thomson for her 50th. It was fantastic to see other teams lining up for the guard of honour to celebrate these player achievements. Check out the socials for pictures of these legends.

Next week we will be celebrating Team Sports 4 All (TS4A) in Round 9. Team Sports 4 All was started by a two parents in 2011 who noticed two boys who watched footy training and never joined in. When they asked the boys why they didn't play the answer was simple; "our parents can't afford to pay for us to play sport".

They paid for the boys' football registrations and uniforms and got them into a team; the boys jumped at the opportunity to play a sport that they loved. In 2015 TS4A became a registered charity and received DGR status. TS4A help families experiencing severe financial hardship to get their kids playing sport. They meet the families, connect them with a club, pay their fees & uniform costs, and most importantly give them ongoing support. In Round 9, our U11 girls and mixed teams will be wearing socks purchased by the Club to support this very worthy cause.

You too can donate to TS4A to make a positive healthy change to the lives of Victorian children. https://ts4a-and-smjfl-round-9.raiselysite.com/t/oakleigh-jfc?utm_source=qrcode
See you around the grounds for the last round before the school holiday break! 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
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Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
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Football Operations Manager: Ross Black
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Boys & Mixed Coaching Coordinator: John McLaughlin
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
Junior/Senior Club Liaison: John Bernardo
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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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FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Millie Thomson, U15 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

Pat Davey, U16 Boys

100 GAMES



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

NOTE FOR TRAINERS - MANAGING HEAD KNOCKS/SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

Managing suspected concussion on game day is a serious task for Trainers. The most important steps in initial management include:

1. Remove the player from the match if they sustain a head injury.
2. Use the HeadCheck Concussion Management app to assess the injured player.
3. If concussion is suspected, refer the player to a medical doctor for assessment.
4. Request medical clearance is provided before return to training & playing.

Remember: if in doubt, sit them out.

Trainers, please familiarise yourself with the concussion protocols on our website:

<https://oakleighdragons.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-The-Management-of-Sport-Related-Concussion-in-Australian-Football-Mar-24.pdf>



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025

ISSUE 9

ROUND 8 / 22 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

Oakleigh dragons under 9's hosted East Malvern on an on a very cold morning with ice covering the ground, I looked at the kids that were trying to warm up and they looked frozen and this is how we started the game on the back foot as we couldn't get moving. They played the conditions better than us and we found ourselves chasing them around all day.

The team tried really hard with improving their tackling and hand balling, we will work on our kick ins this week at training. We had some really good individual performances such as awesome effort by Elijah and it was Harvey M's best game with some great pressure over the whole game with Apollo trying hard all day. We take the positives out of today and move on with trying to improve each week.

Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The Dragons took on Ormond away in what proved to be a hard-fought and entertaining contest. We were a little slow out of the blocks allowing Ormond way too much space and time to which they capitalised on, and at quarter time we challenged the team to lift their defensive efforts to help kick start our game.

Flora set the tone with some brilliant one-on-one contests and strong tackles that helped shift the momentum and set up our first goal for the game. This helped lift the group and we were able to steady the game through the second and third terms. The group never gave up, showing real determination and spirit right through to the final siren.

The last quarter was a highlight—full of energy and belief. Luke's move forward brought real excitement and nearly turned the game in our favour, sparking a fantastic comeback effort.

The game was played in great spirit by both sides, and it was so good to see the kids smiling and proud of their efforts.

Plenty to take away from this performance as we build into next week! Hopefully, we will welcome back some injured players in the next couple of weeks with Jack, Olie and Guy missed by all.

Go Dragons!!

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

As the sun was rising and the ice thawing at Scammell, our boys got going to win an entertaining game of football against a spirited Panthers team.

We've tried to focus on being the best starting team in our games, but this week it was well and truly the Panthers who took that title. They kicked the first two goals, and put us on the back foot right from the start. They attacked the goals hard in the first quarter, and put our defence under immense pressure.

Down at the first break, the message at quarter time was simple. There was no need to panic. As our Skipper Evan urged before the game, we needed to lift our pressure and keep focused on winning the ball and the game might change. To their credit, our team united and were able to slow the Panthers run. We started getting the ball going our way. Teamwork started to pay off, and we finally kicked our first goal thanks to a Jimmy M special from the boundary.

In the second half our boys got on top in the midfield and we were able to give our forwards lots of opportunities. Francesco, Koby, James Sanzaro and Thien all benefited from James Scott and Raj's ruck work, surging us forward. The Panthers defended really well, and it took great effort from our backline to stop their run too. Our defenders were fantastic - as a group they are all starting to help one another out lead by Krishiv, Connor and Josh. We hit the front with a strong 3 goal quarter with Koby, Francesco and Max Moloney all hitting the scoreboard.

In the last quarter we knew we had to work hard because we'd seen how well the Panthers had hit the scoreboard earlier in the game. All of our players knuckled down and competed hard. Jimmy and Max kicked us ahead with 3 beautiful goals between them, but really this was a result of all the hard work of the boys up the field. Evan, George, Ary K and Chris all got involved - it was a really pleasing team performance.

Thanks again to the U9's who helped out - Max M & B, Ethan, Gianni and Rishon. Special shout out to Ethan who is recovering from a mild concussion - we wish you a speedy recovery buddy.

Thanks to all the volunteers!

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

The U11 Girls had a Bye this week.

U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Port Colts on a windy Sunday afternoon at JL Murphy Reserve in Port Melbourne. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure and getting more numbers to the contest.



In the first half the endeavour was there and the pressure was great and we 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 the Port Colts team were too polished on the day. There were solid performances from James T, Phoenix, Eli, Kai, Charlie, Bronx, Darwell, Tommy and Max Morel. Everyone tried their best and can't wait for next week.

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

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

Go Dragons!

U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Murrumbena at home today on what was a perfect day for footy. Unfortunately we started behind the 8 ball with absences and illness seeing us short of players and further to that, we had to play one man down for the majority of the first quarter which was always going to be a challenge against quality opposition. Big thanks to Ethan, Max and Tommy from the U12's for stepping up to support us today as without them, we would not have been able to field a side.



The boys fought hard in the first half but were unable to stop the opposition's run and clever ball use which saw them kick out to a commanding lead at half time. It was more of the same in the 2nd half with the tall rucks from the opposition dominating clearance to give the rovers first possession which kept our defence under constant pressure.

There were a few highlights with some strong tackling, a great running goal from Finn, Jonah marking everything that came his way and Jimmy toiling hard down back but there was a lot of undisciplined play which made life far too easy for the opposition at times. Ultimately it was a day we'd like to forget but we will take the lessons out of it and work to be better. Plenty to work on at training this week.

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

For the second week in a row we played the ladder leaders, last week it's was Mordi-Brae and this week it was Port Melbourne and we welcomed the challenge down at Scammell.

Just to add to the challenge we played with no bench and one less player and as a coach I have never been prouder of what I saw in that first quarter.

We had no choice but to play girls in new positions and they responded with enthusiasm and grit. Kiana who predominantly plays forward went full back and was amazing, marking and saving goals left right and centre. She was supported by the ever improving Lois, getting into great positions and beating her opponent. Bella who normally runs the wings went down back and won her one on one contests.

Our new looking backline was supported by our onballers, Ellie's silky movement and clean skills provided lots of two way running and Alexis was throwing herself from contest to contest working tirelessly in the ruck and wings.

At quarter time we kept them goalless and were only down by two points. The second was much the same.

Sophia went and helped out in the ruck and our newest players Athena and Marlie had breakout matches. Moving out of their forward pockets Athena went into the middle and was under the packs and earned her free kicks. We discovered Marlie can run and was flying up and down the wings and getting into the match. Our usual goal sneak Vicki was thrown onto the ball and competed ferociously against bigger players.

Only two goals down at half time the girls' efforts were enormous and showed their resilience and willingness to work for each other.

Unfortunately in the third we went another player down but the girls didn't drop their heads. Anastasia kept competing in the backline while Jess kept making her trademark bursting runs out of the packs and taking strong marks around the ground. We got a glimpse of what Miette can do with ball in hand with a majestic run and bounce down the wing.

Not only did Ruby mark, tackle, kick and handball all match, at 3 quarter time when we were down and understandably a little flat, as she does so often on the field Ruby led by example and got the team doing the nut bush on the ground at the break. Yep.....the nut bush.

With our energy restored we fought out the last quarter even with another player going down injured. Our captain Skye covered every part of the ground trying to inspire her team and our full forward Mia went into the backline and was great, marking and winning the ball.

What I love about this team is we were down 69-0 with 80 seconds left and our backline chased down their opponent to save a goal then smothered the ball to stop another kick for goal. Their appetite to compete and never give up is inspiring showing true Dragon spirit.

Super Proud!!! Well done girls

U15 GIRLS PAUL GEORGES

This week we played our local rivals East Malvern at our home ground while celebrating yet another 50 gamer with Millie running through the banner.



For our squad, the energy just wasn't quite there pre-game and during warm up and it certainly showed on the ground, going down in a frustratingly low scoring game. Whilst we fielded a full starting 16 thanks to the u14s again, we had a very sluggish start and just couldn't hit top gear all day, our skills were well below expected standards compounded by an opposition who simply out pressured, out tackled, out ran and overall outplayed us all day. All in all, we were well beaten across the ground however our defence stood up admirably against the flurry of opposition i50s. Elaine was superb and was well supported by the back line group. Mids tried hard all day but just couldn't give the forwards much opportunity to score though Astrid was non-stop with her 2nd and 3rd tackling efforts. Unfortunately for us, we just didn't have enough winners across the ground and the game ended with more blood, tears and bruises than a Rocky sequel.

We'll mark this down as a bad loss but this just adds to our learning curve. We need to be much better than this and we certainly know that we are.

It all starts again at training. Let's get the numbers up Wednesday and we go again before the break.



U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The u16 boys took on St Kilda City for the second time this year at home. In the round 1 game, Oakleigh comfortably won. However, this match up presented a different challenge with a number of players missing from the round 1 line up.

Oakleigh started with the first win of the day and kicked with the wind. In a similar theme to previous weeks, Oakleigh were unable to convert their dominance and when St Kilda were given an opportunity, they were able to convert and took the lead at quarter time.

St Kilda City were able to further extend their lead in the second quarter and went into the main break with an 18 point lead. The challenge went out to the Dragons in the main break to take the game on and take advantage of the wind. Oakleigh dominated the third quarter with the ball barely leaving their forward half. Unfortunately, they couldn't convert their opportunities as they kicked 5 behinds while keeping St Kilda City scoreless.

The Dragons rallied in the last quarter and again controlled the game for the majority of the quarter. Again, St Kilda were more efficient at goal as they kicked 1 goal from 1 scoring opportunity compared to the 2 behinds for Oakleigh.

Despite having more of the footy throughout the game, the Dragons weren't rewarded with the win. Special mention to Pat Davey who played his 100th game. A great achievement.



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
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 / Team photos	
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						

