



THE ACORN

SEASON 2019 ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back to Football!

After a long pre season the Oakleigh Dragons were back at what we do best! The football was played at a very high standard with some wins and some loses. Congratulations to all players and coaches for a fantastic start to the season.

A big thanks to the U13 teams who hosted/ filled in for Grub at the Club at late notice, the food was brilliant and catered for perfectly.

We have another Grub at the Club next Sunday before we have a break for Mother's Day.

Next Sunday will be hosted by the U11s and U12 Girls.

Once again I would like to thank the current Committee as a lot of hard work has been done to get the first game underway. (Share the chocolates please) Well done and thanks again!

As mentioned on Sunday night we are looking for new Committee Members to join our current Committee so if you are interested please contact Kathy. All the roles are on the website, have a look and see where you might be able to contribute. The Oakleigh Dragons Committee are a hard working team but we have a few members finishing up after this season. Your help is needed!

See you around the grounds.

Pat

GO DRAGONS

2019 COMMITTEE

President: Pat Heverin

Vice President: David Cash

Secretary: Kathy McGeoch

Treasurer: Jackie Phillips

Sponsorship Co-ordinator: George Wintle

Child Safety Officer: Lisa O'Driscoll

Registrar: Jackie Phillips

Bar Manager: Jim Hall

Coaching Co-ordinators: Jeff Fortune & David Cash

Canteen Manager: Clancy Phillips

General: Sharon Westin-Shaw

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ANZAC DAY PRESENTATION

The Dragons are very thankful to Chris Gray who again attended to present the Anzac Round medals. Chris joined the Army in 1991 and discharged from the Regular Army in April 2008. Chris was assigned to the Corps of Engineers as a Field Engineer and later completed his trade as a Carpenter & Joiner where he rose to the rank of Corporal.

Whilst in the Regular Army Chris, along with his wife Alison and son Tom, were posted all over Australia, including Sydney, Townsville, Wodonga, Darwin, Brisbane and Melbourne. During his career he served his country both here in Australia and overseas, with deployments to Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Iraq and Banda Aceh. Thank you again Chris.

We congratulate our Anzac Medal Winners who showed tremendous courage on game day.

U9 Mixed (Nick)	Liam Nikitas
U9 Mixed (Mark)	Darcy Moreland
U10 Mixed	Hunter Hayes
U11 Mixed	Mitchell Morton
U12 Mixed	Bailey Moreland
U13 Mixed (Gab)	Max Addison
U13 Mixed (Chris)	Alexander Hastings
U15 Boys	Jonah Guergues
U16 Boys	Sid Fortune
U17 Boys	Liam Heverin
U12 Girls	Sienna Leopold
U14 Girls	Elise Kenna
U16 Girls	Keely James



REMINDER

Training Tee orders must close Sunday 5 May. Last chance to order and pay will be at Grub at the Club.

Contact Rebecca Green on argreen8@tpg.com.au





COACHES' REPORTS

U12 MIXED **TIM MORELAND**

Well today we welcomed the joining of last years teams into one U/12 team as we played St Bedes Mentone away. We also welcomed our new players & families to our club. We hope to have an exciting year.

One of those memorable days today with a 124 point win with our defence holding St Bedes to no score.

We welcomed Isaac, Angus & Nicho from Ashwood and I'm sure all those that were at the game can see how exciting they'll be to our team. Well done guys great first game with the club.

Zach joined us in the off season and he was in and under everything today so well done on your first game Zach.

The consistent endeavour of Lachie, Justin & Henry particularly under pressure helped the team propel several forward moves. Add Mitch, and Yanni's run on the wings and we had plenty of metres gained.

Our book ends Antonios and Matty were in it all day and kept consistent for 4 quarters.

Robbie came on and competed in several contests with desperation from Ethan, Nick & Stevie across the ground we were always pushing forward.

With Spencer hurting his wrist early in the first half Aiden controlled his position in and around the ball whilst Raffa, Daniel and Theo were damaging with the ball in hand as always.

Mason filled many roles and was really ever reliable whilst Bailey kicked 8 goals whilst providing assists in others.

Really hard to single players out in such a win. What was really pleasing is that the team is coming together and getting to know each other as well as trying our game plans.

It's an absolute pleasure coaching these kids and hopefully we can continue to have fun, play as a team & improve each game.

Again a big thank you to all parents and helpers it really is a team effort and greatly appreciated.

Well done everyone on a great first game and we look forward to next weeks challenge.

U16 GIRLS **GEORGE WINTLE**

With a fun, enthusiastic and consistent preseason the team got the reward they deserved on the weekend.

The team continue to inspire me with their dedication and willingness to learn.

With four goals to Kaitlyn Cripsy Sidopolous and Inspirational Captains games by Keely and Macca.

Keely deservedly earning the ANZAC medal.

Well done team!!



COACHES' REPORTS CONT...

UNDER 13 MIXED CHRIS MORTON

We had the honour of being the team to open the season at Scammell for the year. The ground was in fantastic condition. Ashwood / Waverley Hawks were our opponents.

After all the pre-season it was exciting to get out there and play a game. Jake, our captain for the day, did the toss and pointed to the North Rd end.

But alas, the first half didn't go to plan as our opposition continued to get the ball into forward line and score too regularly. Alex and Rhys battled hard in the back line to reduce the damage while Angus read the play well and took a couple of timely marks. Everyone was trying hard and doing the 1 "percenters" – tackling, shepherds and spoils. Oscar managed to smother a kick which bounced out to another opposition player who tried to kick but Oscar was there to smother again, which then bounced to another who he tackled. Dylan tried to ignite the side with some run and carry through the middle. Unfortunately, we didn't trouble the scoreboard.

After half time the boys increased the pressure and started to get some run which turned the tide to even out the contest and in end at least win the second half. Congratulations to Will who while getting our first score on the board kicked his very first goal for Dragons after several years of close attempts. Aiden was a competing well in the ruck, with Finn, Jovan, Yiannis and Allen gathering possessions around the ground. Tom was making use of the new kick in rule with some run and long kicks out of the back line.

In the last quarter we started to get on top, but just couldn't put it on the scoreboard. James was everywhere. There were several good passages of play with the boys linking up and getting the ball forward. Sam was enjoying the freedom of the wing and snuck forward to mark and kick a goal, after a series of clinical short passes from James to Oscar to Dylan to Sam.

The gap from the first half was too far though and the end result was a 36-point loss.

A huge positive to come out of the game was our new recruit, Byron, who looked like a seasoned campaigner out there reading the play well and disposing the ball efficiently.

Well done to Alex for winning the Anzac Day medal, for his efforts across the day but mainly in the first half when the back line was constantly under pressure.

U17 BOYS NATHAN LITTLE

Oakleigh JFC 16.17.113 def Dingley JFC 6.5.41

After an extremely long and drawn-out pre-season, the U17s couldn't wait to take to the field and they did not disappoint, taking away a solid win.

Everyone played extremely well with all players coming together to play a cohesive game. For those that could not attend 'Grub', the ANZAC Day medal was awarded to Liam Heverin which was a very well deserved acknowledgment of his efforts.

Congratulations to both Seb Formoso and James Little who both celebrated their 100 game milestones - a great achievement.

Unfortunately Joseph Burke broke his wrist in the dying minutes of the third quarter and, due to the severity of the injury, he is unlikely to take any further part in the season. To his credit, Joe wants to support the team and will be seeking to help out at training and on match days. We wish Joe well with his recovery.

We're incredibly lucky to have a great group of families who are ready, willing and able to help out on game day - thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time. Bring on the rest of the season!



COACHES' REPORTS CONT...

UNDER 12 GIRLS EMILY HEVERIN & JACQUIE MORGAN

Round 1: Cheltenham Panthers

This week our girls played against Cheltenham Panthers, our girls played extremely well, for most of them it was their first ever football game. Everyone was so excited to get out and play. The first quarter was quite thrilling as we kicked two goals in the first five minutes. The girl's skills were awesome, some great tackling and kicks. Throughout the game the Panthers came back and kicked a few goals to give them a very strong lead. In the last quarter we kicked our final goal losing by 30+ points. Hopefully we will come across the Panthers later in the season as they showed such good sportsmanship. We are looking forward to the rest of the season as we are going to be a very competitive team.

U9 MIXED VIOLET NICK SOURRIS

After a long and solid pre-season the under 9's mixed violet were happy to play the first game.

Oakleigh Dragons played East Malvern at Princes Hwy Reserve.

After conceding the first goal the boys dominated the remainder of the game, after being two players short. It was a tremendous team effort from all the kids.

Our two captains, Cooper Smith and Thomas Lynne show the way with their fantastic leadership skills.

Our forward line was dominated by Liam Nikitas who kicked four goals and Heath McEwen Reynolds who also starred.

Our midfield was dominated by Tom Quinn who had a number of possessions and was supported well by Caleb Miszalski.

Our defenders also stood up after constant forward attacks from the opposition. Jaron English, James Sourris and Sasha Engel all had a fantastic game.

I am looking forward to round two to watch a special team in action.

U14 GIRLS SIMON GREELY

Our first match was against Beaumaris and we went into the game with 14 players, 3 of whom were playing their first ever game. Our first quarter was quite good with a strong attack on the footy and some action in our forward line. The girls let their guard down a bit in the second and the Sharks scored 6 goals – 5 from the square – which hurt us a bit. In the third quarter we held them a bit better and minimised their 'easy goals', which was an instruction from half time. In the last the Sharks did score a few late goals as our girls were tired after not having any interchange players.

There were some very positive signs at different points throughout the game so we will need to develop 4 quarter efforts and consistently defend teams so they don't score too easily.

First gamers – Well done to Adele, Choetso and Laura for their great first games.

Better players – Elise, Britney, Ruby, Lucia and Laura.

Goal kickers – none.



COACHES' REPORTS CONT...

UNDER 11 MIXED **DARREN GRENFELL**

Opponent: Mordialloc Braeside JFC **Home Game:** Princes Highway

Result: Oakleigh Dragons win by 20 points (10.10.70 vs 7.8.50) **Match Day Captain:** Will

Pre-Game: The Dragons were looking forward to playing their first game of 2019. No more zones or arm bands, and finally a scoreboard to tell the kids the score. The players are growing up fast as they progress to less modified versions of football. We also got to welcome three débutantes (Drew, Alex and Sam (other known as Dozer)), as well as celebrate the return of 4 past players (Oliver Haddon, Oliver Palmer, Josh, and Rayaan).

The Match in a paragraph: Was a good and even battle throughout the day. Each quarter was full of entertaining end to end football. For most of the day the team maintained a well-deserved two to three goal advantage. With players needing to run all over the ground for the first time, it was really impressive how well the team maintained their positions so well.

Special mentions from the game:

- A dominant 5 goal display from Tyson. Playing center half forward he was taking pack marks and roving the ball whenever it was on the ground.
- Tackling and pressure shown by Dean, Ben, Sophie, Alex and Oliver Haddon.
- The contested marking of Rayaan and Oliver Palmer up forward.
- The defensive display put on by the whole back line, but in particular by Captain Will – who provided plenty of run and long kicking to help save the team on numerous occasions.
- Safely getting the first games into our 3 débutantes, who were all involved in the play at different parts of the match.
- As well as being one of our best players on the day - the three run downs displayed by Mitch throughout the game – which also earned him the Anzac Day Medal.

Round 1 Goal Scorers: Tyson (5), Oliver Palmer (2), Josh (2), Rayaan

Most Pleasing aspect of the game: A solid all round performance with each player contributing something to the win.

One thing to work on for next week: Setting up for kick-ins.

UNDER 15 BOYS **GONZALO VALENZUELA**

Dragons: 19.12-126 Def Waverley Hawks 8.3-51

A great start by the boys, great all round performance.

The Hawks kept the game within 20 points till just after half time when our boys started to really move the ball, link up to find space and time to deliver the ball into the 50.

Special mention to Jonah who really has continued on from his great final performance last year to really find and use the ball well and winning the Anzac medal this year. Evan who had a fantastic last quarter, kicking 4. James Kicking 3 and Xavier with his precise kicking from difficult angles really kept the Hawks at bay in the first half. In the back line, Mitch creating continual attacks from his great reading of the game at centre half back. The Asseta boys Jordy and Luca started to run and carry from half back in the second half which shows a lot of promise if they can do this every week.

All in all, a great performance. If we keep practicing and linking up as we have I can see us going a step or two further this year.

Well done boys.



COACHES' REPORTS CONT...

UNDER 10 MIXED **MARCUS SPENCER**

We played against Waverley Park Hawks U10's at Princes Hwy Reserve

After a pre-season that seemed to last for an eternity, all of the players welcomed being able to run onto the field for the first game. From two squads in 2018, we have formed one team this year and the early signs are positive.

We started the game brilliantly. Our midfield was on top with Josh and Jack getting plenty of the ball and driving it in to the forward line. The forward line was working well too, with Oskar, Hunter and Noah all taking advantage of the opportunities. A four goal to none first quarter was good reward for the hard work. In the second quarter the game became more competitive and we relied on our defence more to keep the Hawks from scoring with the breeze. Nathan, Campbell and Henry showed great endeavour for the whole quarter and kept the opposition scores to a minimum.

It was pleasing to see us run the game out strongly, with Griffin in particular showing he can play well at both ends of the ground. It was a difficult decision as we had many good players, but in the end, the ANZAC Medal went to Hunter Hayes for a great four-quarter effort.

UNDER 16 BOYS **JIMMY HUNT**

The under 16s went out to South Melbourne Sunday and had their highly anticipated first round.

After a long solid pre-season the boys were hungry for some success. Coming up against some strong opposition that got the jump on them the dragons clawed themselves into the game. After being down by a point at half time the boys finally gained some momentum to kick a few goals in the third to go into 3 quarter time ahead by 9 points.

In a very intense quarter the boys can hold their heads very high fighting out a tough 2 point victory.

Aiden showed his class with some important touches in the second half. Josh Boyle competed well in the ruck all day and the money man was a brick wall down back all day.

UNDER 13 MIXED **GAB ROBINSON**

Oakleigh Dragons 4.5.29 def by Caulfield Bears 6.4 40

We have enjoyed an impressive preseason of training with all boys working very hard to develop their fitness and kicking skills in order to implement a game plan of run and carry. After many weeks on the training track, the boys had the opportunity to test themselves out with a big home ground fixture against the Caulfield Bears. We started strongly carrying a two goal lead into half time however the Bears fought back in the 3rd quarter with scores level at the final break. Unfortunately, things didn't go our way and the Bears ended up winning by a couple of goals. We will use the first few games of the season to try the boys out in various positions and come up with the best combination possible. Overall, I was happy with the effort all the boys displayed, they are a great bunch.

Maxy Addison was tremendous in a strong 4 quarter performance whether at halfback, ruck or centre half forward.

Pete Manaras was at his creative best on the wing.

Specky Bernardo showed patches of brilliance and true toughness providing spark deep forward and through the midfield.

And Ethan, Stevie, Billy and Bailey all had an influence on the game.

Play of the day goes to Bailey and Stevie who were inspirational in working a ball out of the back line while under big pressure.

Well done Dragons on a solid performance.



COACHES' REPORTS CONT...

U9 MIXED MARK D'ROZARIO

The first U9 game was a wet cold one and some of the kids got into the groove of a winter sport very quickly as they were excited to play their first game for the club. We had half the team as débutantes and some playing above their age group. The first quarter was goal for goal and the second and 4th quarter we went goalless but not without trying as the ball was in our area, but close misses meant there was no goal. The best quarter was the third where we scored three goals, including a first goal to Troy, other goals To Archie & Andrew. They lead the forward line very well and were rewarded with goals, as well as hard work from Marco and Jethro to keep the ball in.

The midfield got plenty of the ball, there were impressive debuts from Paul & Oliver, and hard tackles by Ali & Robbie and Josh and Darcy worked well together pinpointing passes and moving the ball well to give our forwards opportunities.

The defence was well set up with Fionn's fantastic ball winning ability and Harland overhead taking good marks. Fionn worked hard and got plenty of the ball. Darcy worked hard inside that packs with plenty of tackles and Cameron & Max played impressive debuts. We had 16 kids at this stage and the other team shared 2 players which made it a bit harder to get a good understanding for who was on our team. An amusing moment was when Fionn tackled one of the guys that were lent to us thinking he was the opposition.

The team tended to follow the ball a lot so we will work on spreading at training so they can get more passes between their team mates rather than getting caught following the ball. Currently, I have them getting used to one position in the games so they can settle in a position during the game and try to find their strengths and weaknesses in order to see where they are a best fit. Overall I was very impressed with our first game and the application the team showed and look forward to the rest of the season.

SET UP / PACK UP DUTIES

Duty	Date	Team	Time	Venue
Set-up	5 May	NO GAMES		Princes Hwy
Pack-up	5 May	NO GAMES		Princes Hwy
Set-up	5 May	U9 Mixed Yellow	9.00am	WA Scammell
Pack-up	5 May	U16 Boys	2.30pm	WA Scammell



GRUB AT THE CLUB SCHEDULE

(Subject to change during the season depending on game times, your Team Manager will keep you posted).

Date	U8 & U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays	Grub at the Club
28/4/19	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		Anzac Round U13
5/5/19	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		U11 & U12G
12/5/19	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Mothers' Day	
19/5/19	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4		
26/5/19	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		U10 & U17
2/6/19	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		
9/6/19	No Games	Queen's Birthday				
16/6/19	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		
23/6/19	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U12
30/6/19	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	School Holidays	
7/7/19	No Games	School Holidays				
14/7/19	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	School Holidays	U16 & U16G
21/7/19	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
28/7/19	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		
4/8/19	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		U9
11/8/19	Lightning Carnivals	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		
18/8/19		Lightning Carnivals	Round 15	Round 15		U15 & U14G
25/8/19			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
1/9/19			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Fathers' Day	Committee
8/9/19				Grand Finals		TBA