



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

26-27 June 2010



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 12pm Email to: reports@thunderfc.org.au

President's Report

Well we have just about to reach the middle of winter, so those training nights will no doubt be hard to raise the motivation levels. The other challenge will be to get through the upcoming school holidays. Please make every effort to ensure you have sufficient players for your school holiday games. Borrowing where possible may be an option as long as you give plenty of notice. The GHFA charges big penalty fees for any game we can not play and the later the notice the bigger the penalty. Also make sure you let Graeme Tingle or myself know if there is a potential problem with getting numbers or for anything for that matter.

It was a shame to see the Soccerroos bow out early but still a respectable performance all round. Thank you to the organising committees for the midnight bowlo game, it was a great atmosphere, regardless of the outcome.

Enjoy the school holidays and thank you for continuing to make this a great season, win, lose or draw.

Yours in commitment

Rob Roberts
President, TTFC



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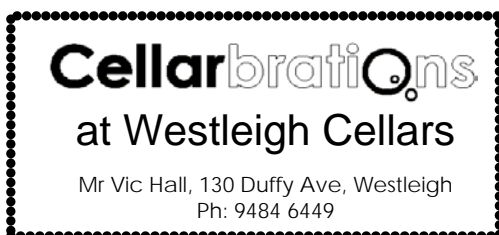
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U6 Purple C THORNLEIGH 13 vs. KENTHURST 0

A solid win for Thornleigh.

A cold and damp start to the morning out at Kenthurst, however, the Under 6's took to the field with plenty of gusto. A player short; AUSTIN, OLIVER and BLAKE took to the field with a borrowed player from Kenthurst; Ben. The first half saw the score at 3 -0, with great goals by AUSTIN, BLAKE and Ben (Ben, showing that it doesn't matter who you play with, you just try your best).

KEITA and ADAM arrived ready to join the team for the second half. The second half was explosive, with a solid effort in defence, some excellent tackling and good covering of the field by all. Each of the boys had a turn in scoring in the second half, taking the score to 13-0. What is really pleasing about our team is that we have so many enthusiastic players. Definitely one of our best team efforts. Well done boys.

Player of the Match - AUSTIN

Trainer of the Week Award – OLIVER P



U6 WHITE THORNLEIGH A vs WEST PENNANT HILLS CHERRY A

Whistle blows. GOAL! OSCAR breaks through the Cherry's advancing defence and whips it into the back of the net. Wow, what a start. The Cherries are undaunted and come back with spirit. It is all Thornleigh can do to contain this powerful team, but not for long. They score, and then again as the Cherries press their physical advantage. NOAH works hard to break up the attacks. OSCAR continually chasing down the ball is rewarded with another goal. TOM picks up the pace, feeding from OSCAR'S energy. He works the ball down the left wing, cuts inside beautifully, and shoots. But alas the shot is wide. ROSCO feigns to the right, bursts through the Cherry's back line, and shoots. The ball skews the wrong side of the post. ROBBIE'S turn. He rolls the ball around the defence, winds back his right leg, and unleashes his trademark power-shot. The ball scythes the grass, but not the net. TOM kicks the ball in across the face of the goal. CONNOR is nicely positioned, unmarked in front of the posts, but the timing of his cheeky backheel shot is not Swiss. CARYS escapes her parent's attention and toddles onto the pitch. OLIVER bears down ball at feet, and neatly dribbles the ball around her. He shoots early to avoid the charging Cherries #6 but the angle is too sharp. The Cherries are testing Thornleigh hard. CONNOR blocks a powerful shot with his chest, but he is unable to prevent the follow up. The whistle blows. Handshakes and three cheers all round. The players have thoroughly enjoyed the match. Well done to all.

U7 KOOKABURRA GREEN B THORNLEIGH B 6 vs NORMANHURST B 0

Today the boys faced an opponent who they had easily accounted for earlier in the season but resistance to the Thornleigh attack in this game was more credible. Normanhurst's failure to clear the ball from their own goal line early in the piece was punished by JACK BIDWELL who

stepped up to kick the ball into their net and claim his first of two goals for the match. If the Normanhurst side couldn't decide what to do with the ball then JACK decided for them. The ever keen ANDREW PINES was again in the thick of the action and displayed willingness to take kicks for both sides. His great work lead to further attacks which resulted in ZAC DUNLOP getting a touch on a forward driven ball to which he turned and saw it land in the back of the Normanhurst net.

The boys went to the break three goals up where they seemed more content on expending more energy by running around than finishing off the oranges. I think they were just eager to get the second half under way.

Some hard midfield work had AXIE TADZIK run the ball forward before giving it a good left foot belt which resulted in it colliding with the back of the Normanhurst goal. His sights were well trained today for this result happened not once but three times for him during the game. A clench of hands and a smile with ALISTAIR WESTON after his third was a nice touch. ALISTAIR's own hard work saw him unlucky not to cap off a great game by scoring a goal of his own as his efforts and near misses were more deserving. Thornleigh were hardly troubled in defence thanks to a big effort from all the boys. None more so than HARRISON HOWARD who always looked to get the ball from danger and turn it into attack no matter what the situation. This week's Best and Fairest award was presented to ALISTAIR WESTON. Well done ALISTAIR!

U8 THORNLEIGH Green 9 vs. Beecroft Wombats 1

The boys played a superb game on Saturday with all of them in fine form and giving it their all.

In the first half, HARRY got us off to a flying start with an opening goal in the first few minutes of the match. MASON was as determined as ever and went for a shot at goal which narrowly missed. This was soon followed by his first goal of the season, after an awesome banana kick into the nets. LACHLAN, TOM and SAM kept up the pressure with their determined tackling. JACOB displayed his excellent passing skills and together with EDDIE was a force to be reckoned with in defense, restricting Beecroft to one goal in the first half. This was also thanks to BEN who was excellent as our goalie, and managed some great saves. CALLUM was also in fine form today, and was rewarded with a goal before half-time.

The second half was very much a one-sided affair for Thornleigh. The boys defended well, tackled well and kept possession of the ball. EDDIE went in after the break guns blazing, and after one missed attempt, soon had the ball flying into the nets for his first goal of the match. This was followed by fantastic goals from JACOB, TOM and SAM. LACHLAN had a quiet second half as goalie, but he stayed focused and also executed some great saves. Thornleigh kept the pressure up, resulting in an own goal in the final minutes, and an almighty victory!

U8 THORNLEIGH Yellow

The Yellows played a challenging match against Roselea at Glenhaven. Our team was short on players due to winter illnesses but we were fortunate in gaining a few spares from one of the other Under 8 teams.

The game started off with Myles in goal and he quickly proved his worth making several good saves before the opposition managed to kick a goal straight over his head. Tom and Alexandra showed some great defensive play but the opposition managed to score again. Iris helped shoot wide another attempt on goal. Timon showed his strength as an attacking player making some excellent runs on goal. For the second half Myles made some great runs towards the goal and Iris defended well as goalkeeper. Tom intercepted several attacks on goal and made showed some great defensive moves. Zoe made a brave run on the goal when we were down 5-0, but didn't quite get all the way. Timon intercepted a kick from the other side's goalkeeper and knocked it in for our first goal. And Lucas one of our extra players made an exciting attempt to score but missed.

Player of the match – Myles.

U8 WHITE THORNELIGH 3 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 0

JACQUELINE In goals this week saving a shot by Rangers. MIKA gets a shot at goal. TRAVIS takes the ball up the side, passes to MIKA, is blocked, passes to TRAVIS who scores. Strong defense by the whole team to keep out a determined opposition. TRAVIS again up the sideline, passes to JASMINE who shoots. LIAM at half way boots the ball well into the opposition half. JACQUELINE saves another goal, then is helped by LUKE who blocks another attempt. LUKE again with good cover defense running across field to tackle a player. LUCAS gets the ball, runs away and scores our second goal. In the second half, LIAM is in goals. MATTHEW shows some good defensive kicking. ISABELLE gets a header. MIKA up front gets the ball and attacks the opposition forwards. JASMINE goes for a tackle and is down, but straight back up again for another tackle and a shot at goal, but its deflected. LIAM saves a goal, then kicks a bomb that goes straight up, and down. Good positioning by MIKA, LUCAS passes to TRAVIS who scores. LIAM saves a goal again, big kick to MIKA who shoots wide. LUKE in defense forces the ball over the side. Player of the week went to JACQUELINE for some great saves and good attack play in the second half. Merit Award to JASMINE for playing well even when injured.

U9 /3 THORNLEIGH 2 vs. Ravens 0

A cold wet start to the morning however the Under 9's went onto the field with plenty of enthusiasm.

The first half saw the Thunders under pressure in their defence however the team dug in and kept the Ravens at bay.

MATTHEW was in the thick of the game working hard at getting possession of the ball.

VERONICA was fearless as she took the ball from a number of the opposition, halting their attack toward goal.

The first half coming to a close at 0-0

In the second half the boys were on fire, Thunder showed their supporters what they were capable of and showed great defence the entire second half of this game.

In the first five minutes BEN and ISAAC took the ball downfield to RUBEN who fired the ball into the back of the net for a goal.

NICK had a number of strong runs down the field, zig zagging his way around his opponents.

Another half where our defence was bullet proof with CONNOR ensuring the opposition never got too close to the goal square.

Some big kicks from our goalie FARNHAM in the second half gave us some good scoring opportunities.

BEN took the ball from an ISSAC pass to score our second goal making it 2-0.

Our backs were always under heaps of pressure but between AIDAN, CASSANDRA and WILL the opposition still had their work cut out for them because they never let their guard down. HARRSION had a number of great cross passes that unfortunately just missed opportunities for goals.

Some great team work throughout the game, great passes and great defence; overall resulting in a strong win against the Ravens.

CONNOR took out the Player of the match with Isaac, William, Veronica and Ben taking out the training awards

U9/9 THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORMANHURST 1

On a pleasant morning at Ruddock Park the team played the Normanhurst squad for the third time this season. It was a low-scoring affair. The first half began with LUKE as goalie and quickly featured MARK playing great defence, stopping several of the opponents' early runs and playing some booming balls forward. OLIVIA and DOM were also tough defenders, making strong stops and challenges. Tireless midfield play from MASON and DANIEL helped keep the ball in the Normanhurst end for most of the half. One of the highlights was a beautiful sideline clearance from MARK to JIMMIE and then centred to JJ whose shot missed just right of goal. Despite good shots on

goal from ADELAIDE, DANIEL, MASON (free kick), and JADEN (rattling the cross bar), there were no goals. The halftime score was 0-0.

JJ was in goal for the second half, which freed LUKE to display fearless play in midfield with strong challenges and forward passes. MASON, DANIEL, and MARK continued to impress in midfield, chasing down balls and keeping the team moving forward. Defence featured DOM's solid play and great throw in to DANIEL, and THEA's chasing down a ball and then passing forward with a nifty side step of a charging opponent. The team went ahead 1-0 after a Normanhurst own goal, and then continued pressing the Normanhurst defence with penetrating runs forward by JADEN and MASON, winning numerous corner kicks. MARK had several good shots on goal but none found the net. Normanhurst didn't have many chances in the half but had a final push forward and scored the equaliser in the last seconds. Overall, this was a game where although the team didn't capitalise on many good chances, there was strong team play and clear signs of the team's growing skills. Player of the week was DOM for his all-around staunch defensive play.

U10/2 THORNLEIGH 2 V WEST RYDE ROVERS 2

This weeks game saw the Thunder take on the mighty West Ryde Rovers who are an improving side within the bottom half of the ladder. Coach Isted and the Mark the Manager had a bad feeling about the game as the boys appeared to be taking this game way too lightly.

From the opening whistle it was apparent that the Rovers were up for a big match and they had a very vocal crowd of supporters that were willing them on. Next thing we know we are down 2 nil and we were only half way through the first half. Our backline of TOM SELLIN, TRISTAN FISHER, TIM REYNOLDS and ZANE GEORGE were working overtime to repel numerous attacking raids that were executed by the Rovers. Our mid fielders consisting of CODY JERVIS, LACHLAN HARRIS, DYLAN ARUNCHIAYAPORN and JOSHUA MUCH were also kept extremely busy as they battled away with their opposite numbers. A spectacular goal from an acute angle from JOSH WATKINS just prior to half time reduced the Rovers lead to one goal and at half time the score was 2-1 in favour of the Rovers.

After the half time rev up from the Coach the boys returned for the second stanza to attempt to play more of this game in the opponents half and convert field positioning into points. The Rovers held us at bay for most of the second half, our goalie ZAC MCLEOD played his usual high standard game and ensured that the Rovers did not add any goals to their first half total. With time running out, we had our back to the wall until ROWAN WOOD scored a fantastic goal to level the scores after a great corner kick from TOM SELLIN with 2 minutes left on the clock.

The game finished as a 2 all draw which is a result that we will take considering we did not stick to our match plan and we out enthused by the opposition. We will need to be on our toes for next week as we are playing the undefeated competition leaders. Congratulations to ROWAN WOOD for taking out the Man of the Match award, Rowan had a very busy game and scored a first class goal.

U12/3 WEST PENNANT HILLS 1 vs THORNLEIGH 2

West Pennant Hills took the game to Thornleigh right from the start and had most of the possession. Some good defending from TESSA GIBBONS, AIDAN LANE and ADAM COOPER kept the opposition at bay, and when they didn't BYRON CLEASBY held onto the ball from any shots aimed at goal. MATT MURRIE, and BEN HURWOOD were kept bust in the midfield along with LUKE FOSTER who chased everything in his area with determination. Half-time came without a goal being scored. The second half saw the THORNLEIGH side waking up a bit and having more of the possession. A good attacking move saw the ball put into the area a second time by BEN HEYWARD across the goal and CAI HUGHES slotted it

away for the first goal. ALEX BORG and SHAUN HO were also kept busy throughout with some good passes through to the forwards. A free kick from the opposition was intercepted by CONNOR McALLISTER, and a great individual run saw the ball roll into the goal past an unsuspecting keeper. A slippery ball following a shot on goal from WPH wasn't able to be held by JORDAN DAVIS and WPH capitalised on it to put them back in the running. THORNLEIGH continued to hang onto their slender lead but conceded a penalty towards the end of the second half. JORDAN stood tall though and WPH fired the ball over the cross bar to leave THORNLEIGH with the victory. Man of the match went to CONNOR McALLISTER with a special mention to LUKE FOSTER. Player's player this week went to ALEX BORG.

Thunder 14/2s v WPH Cherrybrook

So ... 7 or 8 seasons now for some of the boys, and they're still discovering new grounds to play on. Nice one too, though a bit soggy in parts.

Game time, and injuries and illness sadly present problems straight away and in key positions. Unfortunately that meant that kick-off could perhaps be described as a bit of a tactical error.

In the blink of an eye we were 2-0 down to a team several places above us on the ladder.

Despite the quality of the opposition we threatened often and looked particularly dangerous down Danny's right flank. The best chance though came through Will muscling his way through the middle but just not being able to get the vital last touch on it after rounding the goalie.

Then with a couple of forced changes off the bench and some having to play out of position, we were caught out of shape from a corner and a well directed thump from outside the box nearly put a hole in the net: 3 – nil.

Though we looked like holding out for half time, a long range "in" snuck between Will and Mitch and was jumped on by their lurking striker.

Four down at half time was probably a tad unfair but at least the break gave us time to regroup.

A much better second half ensued with several good chances being frustrated by the WPH Ch defence who were rather more worried by the pressure from Danny and the run and chase from Tom L, Izaack and Adie than in the first half.

Jay was having a whale of a half in goal and on this evidence it would have been 2 nil against Serbia had the selectors taken him instead of that Schwarzer bloke.

Regrettably a free kick at about 20 metres given against us for reasons unknown proved too much even for Jay.

Five nil was probably worse than we deserved, boys, even against the team coming 3rd, but it brings into focus all the fundamentals you keep hearing and talking about. Maybe it's worth listing them, though not here.

Finally, a phone was heard to ring towards the end of the game and, when asked, this particular very observant parent gave a perfect one line match report: "Ahhh, we're not going too well!"

Next week boys.

U15/3 THORNLEIGH 6 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS CHERRYBROOK K/red 3

Facing the only team that has beaten us in the comp so far it was with a bit of trepidation that we stepped onto the field today. But our fears were soon put aside when, within less than 2 minutes into the game, with the ball in our half of the field, SAMUEL CLARKE came to the rescue with a brilliant kick up the wing to JACK ANGEL. This was then followed by a huge header by THOMAS HIGGINS to BEAU DEACON who found a gap and passed the ball forward to JACK who booted the ball home for the first goal. 2 Minutes later in a very similar setup, DALE EDWARDS placed a smart looping kick from the half way line, once again up the right hand wing to JACK ANGEL who chipped the ball to THOMAS HIGGINS, ending up with JACOB KOWALSKI neatly side stepping the last defender to boot the ball firmly over the goalies head for our second

goal. Even with some good defence on our part, it was the opposition who managed to break through and score the next goal. 9 minutes later, with a beautiful pass up the middle by THOMAS HIGGINS to BEAU DEACON who then timed his pass to JACK ANGEL with perfection we saw JACK score our 3rd goal. The opposition scored a second time to bring the half time score to 3 – 2 in our favour. 5 minutes into the second half saw a huge lob by the oppositions mid field over the heads of our backs who were caught of guard and too close to the half way line. Our backs were subsequently outrun by the opposition who then scored, thereby equalising the score at 3 all (yes even the dependable LOGAN RANDALL–PENN was outwitted!). The opposition came close to scoring again soon after this from a corner kick, but some good goal keeping by JOSHUA COOPER and great defence by BEAU DEACON saw trouble avoided. We had quite a few repeated goal attempts by the forwards with some unlucky deflects off the opposition goalie and the goal posts. Our 4th goal came from a brilliant pass by Beau Deacon to the left corner with JACOB KOWALSKI picking up the ball and dribbling it past two opposition players, and even though he was at a flat angle to the goals somehow managed to kick the ball right through the goalies hands – what a goal! SAMUEL LANE initiated the run up for the 5th goal right back deep within our half of the field with a great forward kick picked up by JACOB KOWALSKI who booted the ball up the middle to JACK ANGEL where the "one man, mean, lean scoring machine" scored the goal. The last goal was initiated from a penalty kick midway in the centre of the oppositions half. The ball deflected off the opposition where it was picked up by DARREN JOOSTEN who booted the ball high over the oppositions heads while JACK ANGEL manoeuvred himself into position for a fantastic header into the goals. Generally it was not only the excellent forward play by the forwards that won us the game today, but also the relentless defence at the back. Earning points in today's game where FERGUS BARRY-CORDEROY who shone as one of the top defenders of the day with his relentless tackling, ALEX PUN standing out quietly with his tactical passing in the midfield and JACOB KOWALSKI having the edge in the forwards. Another exciting game today where every player deserves a huge big pat on the back

U16/3 THORNLEIGH 0 vs GLENHAVEN 1

Yet another uncovered game. A BIG thank you to resident ref, STEVE GAMBLE, who once again stepped up to the plate, saving me a whole lot of leg work. This man is a gem. Also to MARK LOVE who ran the lines – his regular warm-up for a Saturday afternoon baseball. Also to our loyal spectators – a merry band of parents and grandparents who turn out every Saturday morning filled with the anticipation of a fine spectacle of Thunder team spirit.

Yet another nail biter! How much more can we take? Once again, the boys gave it their all, but this week, despite some thinking shots and aggressive attack, Glenhaven's goal mouth was protected by a sea of local players determined to keep us out – and keep us out they did. When their goal came, a cracker shot from some distance out punching the top right hand corner of the net, there was nothing our goalie XAVIER BOUCHER could do about it. However, courageous dives and run out shut-downs by our man at the sticks throughout the game certainly kept the Glenhaven score contained.

Covering the rest of the field, we saw HUW FISHER position himself intelligently right from the start of play, and consistently throughout the game. RHYS BRIOT had a cracker, with plenty of pressure on Glenhaven and some sweet ball positioning in the box. WILL SOWDEN – another who put his heart and soul into the play today. He put the pressure on, not allowing fatigue to get in the way of his job of staying with his man. Almost scored a cracker goal too. JACK LEWIN put the hearts of many Thornleigh spectators in their mouths with his calm play in backs in the face of some steamrolling Glenhaven attack. TIM LOVE played a thinking man's defensive game on many occasions, holding back on committing, staying patiently

with his opposition player, and snatching the ball from under his nose on more than a few occasions.

MICHAEL GAMBLE used his boot effectively today, with strong kicks through the centre and some nice ball placement on the corners. KEVIN CHENG had a crack at a penalty from a Glenhaven hand ball. Next time Kev! JONATHON HALL and ANDREW CARDWELL did their job in the centre of the field, passing intelligently to create opportunities for our forwards. And, of course, our man who talks us all up, CHARLIE GILLINGS. He had a couple of really great shots – certainly the right idea. Just none of them went in. Reckon your time's coming up again Charlie. Watch this space! MICHAEL BRADLEY will by this stage be missing his early season goal fest. Some nice anticipating run-throughs which surely will bear fruit before the season end.

We were barely out of the car park before receiving a call from injured team player PETER THOMS, keen to know the score. The team is also missing ALEX ANTOGNELLI, out for the rest of the season under orders from his dentist. Yes, ALEX, you really do need to try to save that tooth. NO, ALEX, you can't risk knocking it out on the soccer field! Out this week too was big DOM BORG – an absolute bulldozer in defence who is good value.

The half-time word was this: Playing well, making attacks – just lift the talk and listen to each other – it'll come. At that, we await another exciting instalment of Thunder soccer next week.

U18/1 Girls THORNLEIGH 5 vs ROSELEA WHITE 2

maddy brown! Maddy Brown!! MADDY BROWN!!!

With four girls away today it was a struggle for numbers. Thanks goodness for JESSIE PEARSON and BEC FIELD from the 15/1s who had a bye today and kindly agreed to help us to get to a bare eleven.

Well JESSIE made her presence felt on first touch, running the ball for ¼ of the field to have a shot on the Roselea goal, unfortunately just wide. We started pretty well, dominating the Roselea half. With BEC in goals, FIONA SPARKES had a run in the mids and almost scored from the right, just clearing the bar. Then CHLOE PICCOLO got under the ball, cleared the bar by at least three metres onto the far bank of the canal behind and rebounded back onto the field – too many weebix, Chloe. Still nil-all and somehow Roselea got into our half and we couldn't clear the ball. Roselea finished off that piece with a good goal that nobody could have saved, to be one-up 15 minutes into the game. The coach wasn't happy, but kept his hair on.

Then ANNALESE SMITH "the gazelle" turned it on as only she can, scoring the equaliser and swaying the game back into Thunder favour. From then on till half time it was a dominant effort by the Thunders. MADDIE LATHAM, despite suffering badly from the flu, showed grit with aggressive play in the mids, and scored our second with a boomer from outside the box. ANNALESE was next off the mark with a run from half-way to again shake the Roselea net, then finished off the half with another from outside the box taking us 4-1 up to the break.

BEC came out to the mids for the second half and although she said wasn't confident in the field as she normally plays keeper, was simply brilliant, making many incursions up the left wing and crossing for the strikers. JESS was a key player in the mids for the whole game, at one stage sending ANNALESE with a great through ball. Roselea chipped a ball over our keeper early in the half, which was simply a well executed goal. And that about rounded it up for the match.

Oh hang on... MADDY BROWN! How could one forget the goal of the season? At right full back late in the game MADDY called for the ball near the half way line and launched a HUUUUUGE speculator ... straight into the back of the net!!!! Jubilation all round as Maddy got smothered by her team mates to celebrate a simply awesome shot. Onya MADDY!!!

And that was the ball game.

Many thanks again to JESS and BEC from the 15s, and a special thanks to Roselea for getting the nets as our very

experienced manager missed the late change to Thornleigh as home team....Oops!

THORNLEIGH VS EPPING YMCA

Unfortunately we had four of our usual crew out due to sickness, holidays etc – NIAMH, ALEX, JACK and GRACE. So, first up, a big thanks to TRAVIS HILTON and HARRY HOBSON for coming to help.

Our team arrived on time and waited and waited We thought we were doing it tough. Epping YMCA had only 4 players at 8.30am and were expecting a 5th any moment. What to do ... TRAVIS was happy to help out Epping YMCA as soon as the 5th player turned up.

8.35am and we were good to go! JORDAN was in goals and performed amazingly. He saved countless goals, mostly booted towards the goals by TRAVIS (who obviously has been watching the World Cup and showed us plenty of weaving and awesome kicks and tricks!). The Thunders were pumped to try and win this week and went on with plenty of fight and determination. HARRY and HUGH tried hard to score for the team. CLAIRE almost managed a goal. SHIVEK and LACHLAN were fabulous in back position. The fact that TRAVIS was not playing on their side and scoring for the other team did not cause them too much worry (although less could be said for the Thunder parents). By half time TRAVIS scored 3 goals for YMCA, had set another one up beautifully for one of their other players and another YMCA player scored a 5th goal.

Half time and the Thunders were down 5-0. While the Thunder parents were feeling the pressure, the kids were trying to be positive. This time HUGH offered to go into goal for Epping YMCA. TRAVIS was keen to turn the game around for his mates. JORDAN did so well first half in goals, he was happy to stay on and save some more! Epping YMCA did everything they could to stay in the lead, but within 5 minutes TRAVIS had scored twice and suddenly the Thunders spirit was up and the kids worked hard to get some more goals. LACHLAN and SHIVEK remained awesome in defence and ensured the ball was down Epping YMCA goals a lot less. Epping YMCA scored another goal and this made the Thunders more determined. Every time JORDAN saved a goal there was plenty of cheering. Every time HARRY or TRAVIS scored a goal there was more cheering. CLAIRE stayed focused and determined and made sure she passed the ball to help the goal scoring boys! HUGH was having a hard time defending the balls. Soon enough and with minutes to spare the score was even 6-6 (TRAVIS scored 4 and HARRY scored 2). As HARRY took aim to score our last goal, (which would have taken it to 7 for THORNLEIGH), poor HUGH felt that he let "his" side down and walked out of the goals. Final whistle and game over! Well done every one! You all are played so well and what a fantastic match to watch. Player of the match went to LACHLAN!

AA6 THORNLEIGH 3 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

This was quite possibly the best game the boys have played all year. Who knows whether it was the formation we used or the combinations on the pitch or the alignment of the planets but everything just gelled. There was a hat-trick for TIM MORISON who scored in the 14th, 35th and 84th minutes to seal our win. His first came from another perfect GREG RUSTON free kick. He tried to flick it off his head but only succeeded in flicking it off his back. They all count. The second came after some scintillating lead up play featuring the quick, crisp passing that was the hallmark of our game. The third... well the third was a goal... I've seen so many over the last few nights to remember. I'm sure Tim and Greg who were involved will remind me just what happened. There were many other great performances out there. We managed to keep a clean sheet for the first time this year. Keeper MARK DENNIS making a few fine saves to keep it clean. PAT CHAPMAN played with a tremendous amount of desire but was denied the goal he wanted today. His turn will come another. JAMES RODGER, MARK KENNEDY

and DAVE POWER all had outstanding games. But perhaps the best was a breakout performance from NICK CHAPMAN who looks like he's found his niche on the field. It was an excellent result which should cement our top spot on the table for now. The real test comes next week against Penno in a potential preview of the grand final. Revenge for our defeat in the first round must be our only goal.

AAW10 THORNLEIGH 1 vs FLYING BATS 1

Thornleigh went into the game with the spirit of warriors. From the kick off the possession was ours. DENNETT, FORREST and POP were dominant on the field pushing the ball up at every opportunity. PANDA had a few attempts at goal and there were some close calls off a few corner kicks. STAR was able to sit down and have a cuppa and biscuit in goals while the first twenty minutes was played as THORNLEIGH would not let the bats take possession of the ball. JO JO was our little energizer bunny and seemed to be everywhere on the field in offence and defence. The BATS had a couple of burts down their wings and STAR was able to pick up loose balls. STOPH, CHIPPA and SWEEPER managed to hold their defensive line strong with STAR to back them up. BLUE had a shot at the wing and was able to utilize her strong boot although she hit the dust at least five times she still managed to get the ball in the right spot. On a burst up the centre for THORNLEIGH a nicely placed pass was given to POP and with the agility of a ballet dancer she bounced the ball just off her thigh which fell nicely on the inside of the left post. The score was one nil. Unfortunately not long after our goal FLYING BATS had a burst down the wing. STOPH and SWEEPER could not cut off the pass to the centre and BROOKSY just missed the intercept. Shot at goal was made and was successful. At half time the score was one all. The second half saw THORNLEIGH having the majority of the possession again. MADDOG gave some awesome balls up the wing to our forwards and even helped out in defence by outrunning their forwards to make a few intercepts. PADDY helped out in defence in the second half in the left back possession and helped close down a few goal attempts. THORNLEIGH ran with the heart of lions and the team spirit and enthusiam should be rewarded. Unfortunatley we could not grab a second goal and the final score was one all. Thanks PUP for coming to cheer as always and for the extended family and friends who came to support us. Your support is amazing and always welcomed. Congrats to JO JO on coaches player, well deserved.

AA / 14 Thornleigh 1 vs. North Epping Rangers 1

This was a hard fought draw against a very good Rangers team who have beaten other top teams over the last few weeks . we had beaten Rangers quite easily in the first round but as happens teams improve as the season progresses and we knew that this game would not be a pushover .

North Epping oval was mud heap in the middle of the park which would make our game plan of pushing wide at every opportunity difficult as we only had a narrow window of dry ground to work with , we started off the game with our usual enthusiasm and our passing game was looking good in the limited space available as we continually pushed the ball forward to try an exploit any weakness in the Rangers defence .

Our team were were passing the ball around nicely as we worked the ball forward and we were first onto the scoreboard when a magnificent 25 meter volley from Brownny curled away from a diving keeper to go into the top right corner . Brownny has promised this type of goal for 10 years but has never delivered and the joy on his face when it went in was great to see , the team were looking god and confident of getting another one before half time when our luck ran out as we conceded a corner and a perfectly weighted shot fell to a Rangers player who headed it like a rocket into the net .

We came in at half time still confident of going on with the game as we had started to dominate the opposition , the

second half was a mirror image of the first as we controlled the ball and did not allow Rangers to get near our goal mouth , but were unable to put any more away .

Luck was not with us today as our forwards tried hard but could not find the back of the net with several shots going over or wide after some really good lead up work , the game ended at one all and we were a little frustrated as we were clearly the better team on the day . We need to keep working hard on our shooting practice and our corner defence at training this week as we play the joint leaders next week in what we are sure will be a tough encounter