



THORNLEIGH SPORTS CLUB Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION BLUE & GOLD NEWSLETTER 15th May 2004



**** Support your Premier League ****

*Premier League Divison 1 Games – All Reserves Grade games at 1.15pm, All 1st Grade games at 3.15pm
Visit <http://www.thornleighsports.org.au/> Soccer – then follow the Premier League Link for 2004 Fixtures*

Hi All,

Saturday night's Trivia Night was a resounding success for a number of reasons. Firstly the evening was extremely well patronised with numbers around the two hundred and fifty mark. For this reason alone the Club should be extremely proud. Secondly, it demonstrated that the Thornleigh Thunder Soccer Club is dynamic, resourceful and capable of meeting new challenges. Thirdly, it was an opportunity to bring the club together and show that the next fifty years of club history will be at least as good as the last.

The event was mainly organised by the Premier League players and management. They put an enormous amount of time, effort and liquid cheer to ensure that the night was a success. They have shown great commitment both on and off the field, and I am proud to be associated with them. Thank you to Bruce Roff for your calming influence and heading up the organising committee.

Ray Thompson did an excellent job in raising funds through the auction. Half of the money will go to Molly Wood / Sophie Delezio Trust Fund. I would also like to thank the sponsor of prizes like Ray for his donation of two days on his boat which brought in \$1200 alone.

Thank you to Mary and Tim Yeates for the audio/visual presentation from the club archives. Kelli Alder and her all age women's team were fantastic in setting up the hall and running the raffle which brought in an additional \$800, of which half will go to the development of girls/women's soccer. Thanks also to the many that lent a hand to ensure that the night went smoothly and to everyone who turned up.

Highest praise must go to Tony Ruttyn who as usual provides a very professional job. We are very fortunate to have such a versatile and talented person in our club. Your interest, support and efforts made not only the night possible, but the overwhelming success that it was.

Net funds raised on the night will be shared by the Club in general and the Premier League to promote the development and enjoyment of soccer as well as other initiatives.

Yours in commitment

Rob Roberts

President

Committee Contacts

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THORNLEIGH "THUNDER" PHOTOGRAPHS - SATURDAY 5 JUNE 2004 CAR PARK - THORNLEIGH WEST SCHOOL

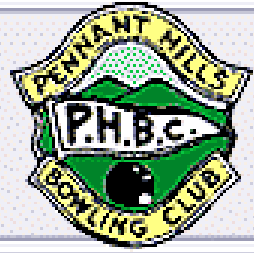
IMPORTANT : PHOTOGRAPH TIME IS ACTUAL. Please arrive 10 minutes in advance of scheduled time.

PHOTO TIME	AGE TEAM	GAME VENUE	GAME TIME
8.00 am	14 Division 1	Oakleigh	8.30 am
8.10 am	6 Purple	Oakleigh	8.30 am
8.25 am	7 Red	Holland	10.00 am
8.40 am	8 Blue	James Henty	9.30 am
8.50 am	7 White	Oakleigh	9.15 am
9.05 am	16 Girls Division 1	N/a	N/a
9.15 am	9 Division 7	Oakleigh	9.45 am
9.25 am	6 Red	Oakleigh	10.00 am
9.40 am	8 Green	Ruddock	10.30 am
9.50 am	11 Division 2	Thornleigh Oval	8.30 am
10.05 am	9 Division 4	Oakleigh	10.45 am
10.20 am	13 Division 4	Epping North	8.30 am
10.30 am	6 White	Oakleigh	10.45 am
10.45 am	16 Division 1	Galston	12 noon
11.00 am	16 Division 3	Kenthurst	12 noon
11.10 am	12 Division 1	Thornleigh Oval	9.30 am
11.25 am	10 Division 6	West Epping	9.30 am
11.40 am	8 White	West Epping	10.30 am
11.55 am	12 Division 5	Epping Oval	10.30 am
12.10 pm	11 Division 4	LH Waud	10.30 am
12.20 pm	7 Orange	Oakleigh	11.30 am
12.30 pm	7 Green	West Epping	10.45 am
12.45 pm	18 Division 1	Holy Cross	3.15 pm

**** One (1) team photograph per family. Players to wear full uniform. Managers and Coaches to wear club jackets or shirts where possible. Jackets will be available**

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Thornleigh Soccer Club gratefully acknowledges the generous support of its sponsors for the 2004 season and hope that you support them with your patronage.

Email Addresses of Interest:

THORNLEIGH SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB - <http://www.thornleighsports.org.au/>
GLADESVILLE HORNSBY SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION (GHSRA) - <http://www.goal.net.au/ghsra/>
Go to Menu-Referees Report-Uncovered Games by Club to see games not covered by referees
GLADESVILLE HORNSBY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (GHFA) - <http://www.ghfa.com.au/>

Red Thunder reverberated across Oakleigh Park on Saturday morning as the "Mighty Red's" raced to their second win of the season with a hard fought 6-5 victory over Hills Hawk. CALLUM HANDS saved a number of goal attempts in the first half while ADAM WALKER held out the Hawk's attack in the second half. IZAAK MUNOZ once again lead the scoring for the Mighty Red's with a gutsy four goals plus several shots that shook the posts! MAX EDWARDS put on some strong tackles in tight situations while CHRISTOPHER WATT looked for the loose ball. Both LIKE SPYER and LIAM SHERMAN were strong in the midfield and brought the sideline alive with a number of great tackles and runs. With the score locked at five-all minutes before full-time, Coach MARK SIMONS leapt for joy as his son JORDAN SIMONS slotted the winning goal just before the final whistle.

U6 WHITE

No Report

U6 PURPLE

THORNLEIGH 0 vs. GLENHAVEN 6

A disappointing result this week after last week's effort. Perhaps it was the warmer weather that just did not feel like soccer season or perhaps it was the call of freshly laid dirt on the field. That new dirt was just too tempting and most seemed distracted at some point with the thought of playing in it. ALEX BORG continued to play an excellent game this week. He always had his sight on the ball - he was kicking strongly and covering a lot of ground which earns him player of the week. That evening the parents then took a table together at the Trivia night. Sitting together at table 7 we just missed out on the winners prize by 1 point, coming in second place. All in all a great day!!

U7 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 0 vs CARLINGFORD 3

It was a tough game for the boys today. They played against a slick team. Christian was our goalie for the first half and put in a great effort saving some fantastic goals half. ANGUS MCALLISTER had a brilliant game as fullback saving the day on many occasions. BEN MANCE, DANIEL HABKOUK, CALLUM TOOHEY and JEREMY PAK played well up front, passing the ball well and had some good shots at goal. MURRAY THORPE was man of the match this week with the most unbelievable save from a cracking shot straight into his arms. AIDEN BRIERLEY & JAMES PATTERSON got in there and tackled well feeding the ball up towards the forwards. All up they played well, but were beaten by a better team on the day.

U7 RED

THORNLEIGH 1 vs BEECROFT 1

We're BAACCKK! You may or may not have noticed the absence of a report for the mighty U7 Reds over the past few weeks. This is because the Team has been mid-season lock-up since mid April, with no contact with the media allowed, as we tried to analyse what had gone wrong since our promising pre-season game. Well, in retrospect the answer was obvious - RAY THOMPSON! Just the promise (threat?) of a special training session next week from our Thunder Coaching Co-ordinator was enough to inspire the U7 Reds to hard fought, gutsy, all-team effort. The game was close from the start, with Beecroft snatching an early goal to make it 1 - 0. A couple of daring solo runs by eventual man of the match MARK RICHARDS almost ended in well-deserved goals, and solid defence by ELLEN 'None Shall Pass' BOUCHER, the ever tenacious JONATHAN MEIKLE and the effervescent JOSHUA TREWIN, coupled with excellent goal-keeping by MAX KENNEDY, kept Beecroft at bay. At half time we were still in it, and a big pep-talk, coupled with copious amounts of jelly snakes, saw the team run out for the second half truly inspired. The whole team played brilliantly in the second half, roared on by parents sensing the possibility of a first goal of the season, and maybe even a win. DANIEL FOWLER and DIANA CAVILL had their best games of the season in midfield, fighting for every ball. Finally, with about 4 minutes to go, the ball fell loose to MAX KENNEDY who, from about 40 metres out (okay, maybe it was about 8 metres) sent the ball like an arrow past the despairing Beecroft keeper. A goal!! Oh, the rapture! After a few nail-biting minutes, when Beecroft had several good chances foiled by a pumped up JONATHAN MEIKLE in goal, the game ended in a 1 - 1 draw, a fair result in the circumstances. The champagne and jelly snakes flowed after the game like at a Danish Royal Wedding, and with more all-round team performances like that; we can expect to win a few games from here on.

U7 ORANGE

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ROSELEA 0

This was a very evenly matched game from the start, with great defence from both teams. Two of our great Forwards BEN SEPAROVICH and SAM DRUMM had some good attempts at goal - all stopped by Roselea's Goalie. Some great saves by Thornleigh's ALAN JIANG in goal left the score at Nil all at half time. In the second half, Thornleigh worked together brilliantly as a team and the match winning goal was scored by SAM DRUMM with a great run from the half way line followed up by some brilliant foot-work to get past Roselea's defense. A win for Thornleigh - well done team!

U7 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 0 vs MACQUARIE COMBINED 3

Before we start we need to say a big thank you to BOB BIRRELL for coaching the team at both the practice and the game this week in WAYNE'S absence. This week's result does not reflect the game in any way. It looked like we had two different teams in each halves. In the first half the boys were spirited, courageous and hungry to win. Unfortunately, in the closing minutes of the 1st half Macquarie score after a defensive mistake to hammer in their first goal. This happened again early in the 2nd half which seemed to dampen the boys spirits. They continued to fight hard but just couldn't convert their attempts and they struggled to hold their position. Many of the boys were making spirited runs from halfway. NATHAN BIRRELL, STUART BRUCE, JASON CLARKE, and RYAN MALLETT were most notable for this. BEN WALLWOOD (Player of the Match) was also making great runs and a good contribution in the centre. In goals JORDAN DAVIS had a solid performance with some effective clearance kicks. JACK GREEN and ROBERT JONES showed some real improvement in the centre with some tackling, turning the ball and kicking the ball forward. ANDREW HADDAD had a solid game in the centre using his defensive skills. Overall a harsh result for a pretty even contest. The boys played with a lot of heart that we can be proud of.

This week the Blueys played a tough, committed opposition and acquitted themselves really well. Both teams showed exceptional defensive skills, particularly in the second half where no goals were scored. There was plenty of end to end movement but attacking raids were snuffed out; often before any meaningful shot could be made on goal. Our back four of MAX, MITCHELL, NICK (player of the match) and TOM D rode the opposition forwards relentlessly and kept them wide most of the game. JAKE put us one up mid way through the first half by getting on the end of a fast break from TOM L who crossed the ball perfectly. BLAKE & CAMPBELL worked hard in the midfield battling for possession, while LUKE ran like a terrier in the second half but was well marked. CAMERON nearly won it for us right on full time but was denied by the crossbar. Great effort boys. In other weeks you will play like you did today and win by four. If you keep up this standard you won't lose many!!

Yes we had a bye on Saturday but our guys were just resting up for the mighty Hills Hawks Mini Soccer Gala Day on the following day. The Greens played three great matches during the day and came away with a 3 – 0 win, a 0 – 0 draw and a 1 – 1 draw in the round robin. We were really proud of the kids as they gave 100% all day, showed great sportspersonship and learned lots about the game. The parents had a relaxing day sitting on the sidelines eating sausage sandwiches and Krispy Kreme Donuts and imparting their collective and supportive soccer wisdom to the kids. Big thanks to our coach, John Sullivan, who kept the kids focussed and organised over three games and four hours – a terrific effort.

With MATTHEW in goal in the first half and CALLUM in the second half we saw some great savings. ANDRE and BEN seemed to be at the right place at the right time and handled the ball very well. TYLER and TESS played very strong and did some great tackling. LUKE did some great running and MATTHEW and JOSHUA were putting on their best legs. DELANEY and DANIELLE did some good stops. It looked as if the whole team had decided definitely not to let any ball into their goal. It was a great game to watch, keep it up !

A great performance from the whole team once again. We started strong pushing up field that finished with a good goal to JOHN BAYNIE. With some enthusiastic passing our second goal came quickly also for JOHN BAYNIE. The third was scored just before half time resulting in a three nil scoreline at half time. Our defense was solid with good work for DARREN JOOSTEN, JAMES PAEK and ROBBERT STARREVELD. The mid field supplied good ball to the front, resulting in two more goals to SAM CARTER and SAM LANE. A much improved performance on last week. Congratulations to all, well done.

An extra night's training during the week did wonders for the team, as demonstrated by a great first half by everyone. REBEKA FIELD was solid as a rock in goal and the strong kicking game of RAPHAEL HARVEY and FERGUS BARRY-CORDEROY kept making inroads into opposition territory. ANDREW BRUCE and CHARLOTTE WARD were notable for their running game and we were unlucky not to have had a goal by halftime. LUKE MORRISON donned the tasteful jumper for the 2nd half, aided by the formidable backline of ABBY SPYER, REBEKA FIELD and REBECCA FOWLER, DALE EDWARDS and JOSHUA COOPER were dynamos in attack, and the end result was not a true representation of how well the team played this week. .

Despite that the game was scoreless, our boys had a good dominant game and they stayed in the Rovers half for most of the time, and rarely looked to be in danger. The defence was quite solid especially by the fullbacks ANDREW CARDWELL, JACK ANGEL and JEREMY TOHEY. The midfield was quite solid in the defence especially TIMOTHY LOVE and ANDREW MEIKLE but lacked the ability to pass the ball to the forwards who only had a few chances to penetrate the goal line. MICHAEL CSOMORE made some good runs on the sidelines. Overall a performance that can be greatly improved on in our next game.

This was a tough game with the opposition moving much quicker to the ball than us and able to hustle well whenever we tried something ourselves. They seemed well organised and held their positions in attack and defence a bit better than us. It was a good game and we had some chances coming from good attacking runs at different times by Anjun, Josh, Jordan, Eddy, Stefan and Tim. We just couldn't manage to finish them off with a goal. Chris G who played his boots off was unlucky to miss his penalty kick, which was given after Pat was brought down in the box. Pat played very well and looked like he might get us a much-needed goal on a few occasions. If we got goals for effort he would have scored plenty. Chris S had a busy day and made some good saves, in particular his perfectly timed run almost to half way to clear the ball out had the Thornleigh spectators gulping for extra oxygen. Jarryd and Jake put in solid defensive efforts as they always do. Our second half produced much better soccer from us and if we played all game like we did in the last fifteen minutes it could well have been a different result. Everybody worked hard with Mitchell and Lachlan especially very busy in defence and putting through good quality passes. A good effort by everyone and we were just beaten by a better team on the day.

First 3 minutes almost a Thornleigh goal with great attack by LEROY, KEL and TOM. The game went from one end to the other. Good defence by all saved a corner attempt by Glenhaven. Great attack by KEL and a corner for us at the other end. Great defence from MICHAEL to keep the ball in Glenhaven's half and keep the pressure on. Good defence by all to keep out 4 corner attempts by Glenhaven. Great run up the outside by BRAD resulted in a goal dropout from Glenhaven. Great skills by MATT W. dodging opponents and passing to TOM. Penalty to Thorn for Glenhaven offside. Many more attempts from a determined Glenhaven. Pressure was on and a fast corner attempt was magnificently defended by SAM, DANYON and MARCUS. Glenhaven took a shot but missed. (Phew that was close). Really good teamwork and passing by Thorn with strong attack by LEROY, BRAD and MICHAEL "boom" KEL scores a goal. Thorn 1 - 0. JORDAN kept busy as Glenhaven fights hard again and just misses a goal. Up the other end again and a great cross from MATT D to KEL and "KAPOW" BEANIE smashed in a goal (it was never going to miss TOM). A well deserved drink for halftime with some enthusiastic words from the coach and parents. Further great teamwork in defence and passing and another goal attempt by TOM is just saved. Pressure applied by Thorn with great efforts in defence by KELSEY. A great clearing kick and backing up by DANYON a pass from TOM and BANG another goal to KEL. 3 nil. BRAD, KEL, LEROY and TOM tried hard again and almost scored goal no.4. A corner to Glenhaven headed out by DANYON. Good defence by SAM and MATT W. but continuing pressure from Glenhaven and they scored 3-1. The last 5 minutes was as tough as the first. An exciting game to watch. Keep up the good work guys. Moving up the ladder. Joint Man of the Match. MARCUS and KELSEY.

U12/1

THORNLEIGH 2 vs HILLS HAWKS 6

U12/5

THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORMANHURST 1

We were looking for a win today to consolidate the team's position near the top of the table, but unfortunately the 8.30 kick off, got the better of this team once again. In the years of association with this team, starts at 8.30 am have always led to disappointing results and this was no exception. They got away to a fast start with three early and clear shots on goals, and except for a particular Normo defender, should have slotted one away. Unfortunately, pushing forward with some "early morning" weary legs, led to a Normo goal in the first half. Special mention to KEELY McCONVILL, who kept pushing forward, challenging for the ball. LUKE MESSINA, Mr. Dependable, playing a consolidating role in-goals. BRENDAN DELLER, Mr. Perpetual Motion on the centre of the park. Next week the parents have agreed to lodge a petition with the GHFA to change all the early starts on humanitarian grounds. The pain and agony on the sidelines was unbearable, given that, on form they should have won. Thank God for the 9.30 start next week. STOP PRESS..... If anyone has had this problem and found an antidote please contact the management of the 12/5's

U13/4

THORNLEIGH 1 vs GLENHAVEN 1

U14/1

THORNLEIGH 12 vs DURAL UNITED 0

A very good score line from Thornleigh, from a pretty one sided game. Thornleigh went on the scoreboard after only four minutes and whilst a big win can be fun, they will need to concentrate next week on playing as a team again. Goals to STEPHEN SMITH (2), OLIVER WELLS (3), DARCY COHEN (3), RHYS GRAHAM (1), HUGH BARTSCH (2) and BEN HOLLIDAY (1). JONATHON STABLES came out of goals for a run as striker in the second half, but couldn't quite find form. Maybe next time Johnno! The pleasing thing to see was that the Dural lads never stopped trying all game, an attitude they can be proud of.

U16/1

THORNLEIGH 3 vs RYDE 3

U16/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 1

Apart from the disastrous school holiday game when we could only field 8 players and lost 14-1 against a team we otherwise should have rolled, we have been undefeated to date, only conceding one goal. From position 3 on the points table the boys were keyed up to give top-of-the-table Rangers a run for their money today. And that they did. In fact we appeared to have their measure for the whole of the scoreless first half, the majority of which we were on the attack. LUKE GROSS made a surprise return this week after a recurring back injury and a welcome return it was. MICHEAL FOWLER was throwing his weight around with controlled aggression and ANDREW SPARKES was solid in the mids. The NICK BOSS/MATT ELDRIDGE combo was working well up front with CHRIS BROWN feeding them both high and low through balls. LUKE GROSS made a heart-stopping last ditch save after the Rangers got past keeper REDFEARN in a goalmouth melee. At the break MATT came off with a crook leg and CHRIS went up the front. The Rangers appeared to take the 2nd half initiative and after 12 minutes a perfectly executed corner found a Rangers head and the net. This fired up our boys who went on the offensive knowing time was fast running out. With 5 minutes to go MATT returned and two minutes later he booted one of CHRIS's huge throw-ins into the net. The boys played really well today and the result is probably a true indication of the tough game that it was.

U16 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WPH GREEN 4

The lunchtime kick-off on this warm and balmy day didn't help and the team was still half asleep when the first goal whizzed past them. That however set off the alarm bells and rattled the girls out of their slumber. LUCY and MEL responded to the wake-up call and both scored a goal in quick succession (no bribes this time!). Suddenly wide awake the team was heading for a comfortable win. The coach of the opposition though, desperately clutching at straws, started to shout Spanish instructions at his team! The result was the equalizer from the opposition at the end of the first half. The peppery language clearly fired up his side, but unfortunately cast a spell over the thunder-girls. In the last ten minutes of the game the veil of Siesta mysteriously descended over our team and two more goals whizzed past. The final snore was 4-2.

Ignore the score line; this was a closely contested match from start to finish, and Gladesville would have left Oakleigh Oval thinking themselves lucky to have taken all three points. Thornleigh pushed the visitors right up to the final whistle and clearly had the upper hand for large stretches of the match. This was particularly the case for most of the second half, when the home side enjoyed more shots on goal. But for an inability to convert these opportunities, through bad luck and timely defence, the Thunder could well have come out with a different result. ALEX REDFEARN had an outstanding game for Thornleigh in goal, pulling off several audacious saves, thus ensuring that the contest remained tight throughout. Others who stood out in a squad of excellent performances were JASON BURT, BEVAN CALVERT and STEVEN PAVITT.

AA/3 THORNLEIGH 1 vs YMCA 2

AA/7 THORNLEIGH 3 vs EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS 0

AA/10 THORNLEIGH 1 vs HILLS HAWKS 3

AAWOMEN THORNLEIGH 3 vs BALMAIN 0

Not one of our best games played so far, but the points are on the board. We did start well and great solo run by JULIA resulted in the first goal. A bit of lost composure through out the game saw Balmain mount some attacking runs which saw us work hard in defence. An early injury to BRON saw her miss the remainder of the game which forced us to make some positional changes. The girls did work hard in some patches which saw the ball be played to feet and moving well. TARA captured our second goal from some good following in. A hand ball in our own goal area resulted in a direct penalty against us. SAM in goals was faced with what most keepers dread and made the save. Finally some good ball work resulted in JULIA driving the nail in the coffin and finishing off a good build up for the third goal. Special mention to JO who was all changed and ready to play except for one most important item, her VOICE. JO had lost it but I could still hear her trying to yell encouragement from the side lines. Great work back at sweeper by JEN made sure we were going to help SAM keep a clean sheet. Wins a win, so let's work hard at training and make sure we play OUR game then we will reap the benefits.

Over 35/2 THORNLEIGH 3 vs BEECROFT 1

SPOOKY COINCIDENCE - ARSENAL AND THUNDER O35/2 BOTH UNDEFEATED!

Coincidence or prophetic? All Mr X knows is that these two teams have so much in common. 11 players, 1 soccer field, incredible levels of skill honed by hours of fitness training.....the list goes on..... Anyway on to the game.....

Buoyed by a Tupperware "Danish Royal Wedding Party" at Ross Stevens' house on Friday night the lads stepped out in style against Beecroft on the day of Sabbath. Early on, Ross "crusty" Gallaher slotted a yet another goal before Elliot Kennedy popped another calf muscle (no Olympics for you....note to synchronised swimming team!)....get well soon mate.

Half time 1 - 0 then STEVE "Sven" THOMPSON literally dribbled the ball into the net (have you seen him shoot?). 2 - 0 until Tim (Rudi) Yeates mercilessly drilled a header from 1.5 metres to make it 3 - 0. Consolation goal made it 3 - 1. Special mention again to Steve "Sven" MITCHELL for some outstanding fullback work.

6 games, 5 wins, 1 draw, 0 losses,.....a team full of Danish ancestry.....coincidence or the year that is meant to be?....find out next Saturday at Thornleigh Oval at 1.15 when THOR the god of Thunder (coincidence again?) shines down on the Royal O35/2's.... Until next timeMr aXe.

Over 35/4 THORNLEIGH 2 vs WPH 3

Over 35/6 THORNLEIGH 5 vs DURAL 5

An amazing game with plenty of goals that ended in a 5 all draw. Thornleigh hit the lead many times, but couldn't keep out the fast finishing Dural United Sports team. Thornleigh played well and could have been considered unlucky not to win, but Dural finished the stronger and worked hard for their point

On paper this looked like an easy game, second placed Thornleigh playing second last Normanhurst. CHRIS WOOD opened the scoring after good lead up play from MATTHEW BARBER and the game appeared to be going to script. However Normanhurst had other ideas. They responded five minutes later with their first goal and a second 10 minutes later. Thornleigh had a chance to score the equaliser just before half time, when they were awarded a penalty, but the Normo keeper denied them with a good diving save. Thornleigh started the second half well but had the wind knocked out of their sails when Normanhurst scored a third goal after 10 minutes of play. Thornleigh had a glimmer of hope of snatching a draw when KARL DAVIES scored from a DAMIEN SUPLINA corner but Normanhurst finished the stronger scoring two late goals to seal the victory. Thornleigh finished the game with a long injury list that included MATHEW DOIG in "Disneyland" and GAVIN TAIT and MATTHEW BARBER with bruising. Coach Davies said to the players at the end of the game "we have just played our worst game of the year" and to start afresh next week.

Thornleigh was forced into a late change for this local derby when TRAVIS PRICE was ruled out with a knee injury. STEVE LANSLEY was rewarded for his consistent play in reserves with a start in firsts. The sky was clear and the earlier forecast of a "THUNDER STORM" over Normanhurst seemed a long way off. Then after 10 minutes of play "THUNDER STRUCK" when AVAN YOUNG scored a header from a corner. Thornleigh supporters searched for shelter suspecting more "THUNDER STRIKES" in the area. Thornleigh kept to their game plan and the Normanhurst strikers became frustrated with TIM COURTNALL's and MARK HOLLIDAY's close marking. At half time coach Hignett was full of praise for the team's first half performance. In the second half play moved from end to end with both teams desperate to score the next goal. The referee was forced to issue a number of yellow cards as the "THUNDER STORM's" intensity lifted. Keeper DAVID BALL, carrying an injury into the game, put his body on the line on several occasions to deny Normanhurst the equaliser. With less than four minutes to play David went down injured when a Normanhurst boot connected with David's leg. David bravely stayed on the field for the last minute of play. Then the unthinkable, with clouds gathering, the eagle landed when Normanhurst scored in the last 30 seconds of play. Coach Hignett, while disappointed with the late goal, was full of praise for his young chargers. To come away from the "Eagle Nest" with a point is a victory in itself. Hignett awarded man of the match to the whole team.

A big thank you to the local community for supporting the Quiz night. The feedback has been very positive. Congratulations to the Fisher family for winning the TV in the raffle draw.