



**THORNLEIGH SPORTS CLUB Inc.**

**SOCCER DIVISION  
BLUE & GOLD NEWSLETTER  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2004**



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

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

Hi All,

It was a bit of a mixed bag this week with the Thornleigh Soccer Club results. We had some wins and we also had some big losses. Our O35/2s managed a big win against our northern neighbours, Normanhurst. The U13/4s maintained their unbeaten streak with a one all draw. The Premier League showed fine form to win in reserves and draw 1-1 in firsts against an aggressive Pennant Hills side.

Our AA Women's team put on a strong performance at Meadowbank Park on Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, the free offer of a penalty kick saw them finish one goal down. Still it was a great game to watch and the three players from our only girl's team were excellent in all aspects.

The last report from GHFA had Thornleigh coming tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) out of twenty-five (25) clubs in the competition table. A great result!

Let's keep up the good work in the final few games of the round.

Yours in commitment

***Rob Roberts***

President

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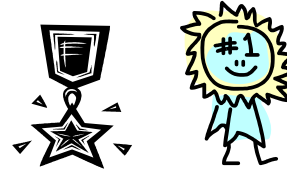
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GLADESVILLE HORNSBY SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION (GHSRA) - <http://www.goal.net.au/ghsra/>  
Go to Menu-Referees Report-Uncovered Games by Club to see games not covered by referees  
GLADESVILLE HORNSBY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (GHFA) - <http://www.ghfa.com.au/>

What a fantastic game that the Reds had today. The secret of their success was an all-round team effort and lots of hard work. IZAAK MUNOZ was superlative, scoring 8 of the 9 goals and working hard tackling the opposition. JORDAN SIMONS made lots of good breaks and looked set to score only to have the ball saved by the opposition's goalie. EMILY SUNNUCKS and CALLUM HANDS made several good breaks heading the ball down towards the goal. ADAM WALKER efforts in goal for the first half were tireless and earned him the Player of the Match award this week. CHRISTOPHER WATT also did a great job saving our goal in the second half of the game. LUKE SPYER and LIAM HANDS worked together well to stop the opposition in their role as defenders. Great effort from all of the team!

U6 WHITE

No Report



U6 PURPLE

THORNLEIGH 1 vs CARLINGFORD 0

WE WON, WE WON, WE WON !!!! Yes we know winning isn't everything but hey it is very exciting when it is our first win for the season....and no, this team was not an easy side. Thornleigh Purple have been playing really well and we all knew that victory was close at hand. SEAN NOTLEY-RUMBEN'S goal for the team as well as many other attempts earns him our Player of the Week. CORY GILBERT, JACK GOLDSBROUGH, BENJAMIN HURWOOD and ANNIKA REYNOLDS all worked hard on the attack, keeping the ball down our end and trying for goals. AIDAN LANE and MARK NEWLAND worked brilliantly together in defense stopping many balls from even making it to the goal circle. AIDAN would then follow through with kicking the ball back down the field for a shot at goal and was awarded Most Improved Player for the game. ALEX BORG and WILLEM OATES who have both shied away from the Goalie Positions did an outstanding job stopping many attempts for goal by the Carlingford team. Enjoy your win Thornleigh Purple - you deserve it!

U7 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 1 vs PUTNEY 6

MURRAY started the game as goalkeeper and was in good form. Putney was a very strong team and had some big players that knew how to set up shots at goal. ANGUS in defence was very strong and with the assistance of the clean up artist CHRISTIAN did a great job slowing the opposition down. CALLUM also put in a fine effort in defence with AIDAN doing some good harassing. MURRAY and CHRISTIAN put together a passage of play that showed excellent teamwork. Unfortunately all this determined play could not stop a rampaging Putney leading 4-0 at half time. BEN was goalkeeper in the second half and was absolutely fantastic saving at least half a dozen goals; one in particular was pure reflex, which showed great concentration on the play. JEREMY scored a fine goal after CALLUM had passed the ball to him and he then kicked it from the right side, hit the left post and went in. DANIEL worked hard today chasing well and JAMES was his determined self getting in and mixing it with some really big kids and doing well. A real gutsy effort by the boys today. They played a real strong team but never gave up and always came at them. Well-done boys. Special thanks and good luck to AIDAN and his family who are moving interstate, we wish you well.

U7 RED

No Report

U7 ORANGE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs HILLS HAWKES 1

An evenly matched start with some good attempts at goal by both teams. Thornleigh showed some great defense with HAYDEN SIMONS saving a couple of goals. When play resumed after half time both teams were on the attack. The first goal was a magnificent shot by TOMMY SIMCOCK off a corner, this was quickly followed by a goal by the Hawkes. However Thornleigh were not to be beaten and after a couple of great runs at goal by SAM DRUMM, he finally scored off a corner - only seconds before full time. A good effort by our boys, with the Man of the Match going to LACHLAN for a sensational effort for his first time as Goalie.

U7 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ALL SAINTS HUNTERS HILL 3

A few words on the Under 7 Gala Day. Congratulations and a big thank you to Dave Richards, Club committee and the referees, for organizing a very successful day. The Under 7 White team had a great day and are the better it. Regarding this week's match, a cruel result that doesn't reflect the game. ALL SAINTS scored 2 goals in the 1st 2 minutes. Our boys were taken by surprise by a well oiled machine. The boys soon caught on and fought back. But were unlucky to concede another goal in the final minutes of the first half. THORNLEIGH brushed aside the set-back and hit back in the 2nd half with a lovely goal from BEN WALLWOOD. This galvanized the team to lift the pace but despite a constant hammering of their goals our shots either just missed or were deflected off the post. THORNLEIGH won the 2nd half but unfortunately could not convert the opportunities. Though it wasn't one way traffic, our defense had their work cut out for them and specifically RYAN MALLETT (Player of the Match), in goals, made at least 6 awesome saves that caused ALL SAINTS considerable frustration. A solid game played, better luck next time boys...

This was a close and hard fought game between two pretty even teams. The difference on the day was the Bluey's slow start (that 8.30 thing again!!) and West Penno being that split second quicker to the ball. After going down an early goal, the boys settled down to a mid field arm wrestle. Finally TOM L produced a run forward and laid off to LUKE who turned a couple of defenders inside out and slotted away a good goal. CAMERON was having an active time in goal and saved our bacon with one save in particular where he just got a fingertip to a solid shot and pushed it on to the crossbar. Oranges at 1-1 slowed our momentum and West Penno got a quick second half goal from which we never really recovered. MITCH again played strongly at the back in a man-of-the-match performance where he anticipated where the ball was coming and closed things down quickly and tenaciously. Hopefully we can get back on the winning way next week when we return to our home patch at Ruddock Park for the first time in three weeks.

JESSICA saved the day early in the game by saving a sure goal, with REBECCA returning the attack to the other end of the field and narrowly missing a great shot at goal. Some excellent footwork by WILL saw another attempt at goal and a combined team effort saw NICK on his way to score, but was not able to pierce their goalkeeper. A great run by WILL and TAYLOR saw another attempt just miss the mark. This surely was going to be Thornleigh's day, but Saints United had other ideas and scored the first and only goal of the game. Thornleigh started the second half with great determination with WILL, ALEX & CALLUM trying to stop a run by Saints but was well covered by JESSICA, JOSH played well in defence and with a great goal kick by ALEX saw JULIAN have a go at levelling the score. ALEX's foot saved another attempt by Saints and a good clearing kick by TAYLOR saw that the team were not going to allow Saints to score again. A last minute effort by NICK to score the equalising goal saw lost opportunity go by. Well done! Maybe next week.

No goals this game but DELANEY performed well in goal first half with a few excellent saves, and BEN was great in goal second half. MATT and JOSHUA did some great runs and together with LUKE they made sure the ball stayed in the other half of the field for most of the time. TYLER seemed to be all over the place and CLAIRE's tackling helped the team by keeping the overhand and DANIELLE gave the ball some well-aimed kicks. ANDRE played a strong game, handling the ball with great skill, while CALLUM tackled and played one of his best games. This was also CALLUM's last game as he is moving and while we wish him and his family all the best for the future, I can assure him he will be missed ! Again, we played a great game together as a team. Keep up the good work!

All Saints came out on fire, with a very well executed goal in the opening minutes. Our boys a bit shocked again showed great sprit in defense with ROBERT STARREVELD, DOMINIC BORG, OLIVER JUDSON, DARREN JOOSTEN and SAMUEL CLARK tackling well. All Saints passed through our defense to score their next goal but TIM CLAREMONT, SAM CARTER and JASON MOFFAT worked very hard attempting to stop them. As last week we had a few chances up front with JULLIAN COHN AND JOHN BAYNIE but just couldn't manage to get the ball in the net. A physical game played with heart, our boys never gave up. Well done guys, you showed determination and fort hard.



What a stunner of a match! A WIN!! The guys played their hearts out as a team and it payed off big time. There were a couple of chances from the opposition, but REBEKA was again inspirational in goal, and let nothing by. LUKE and RAPHAEL were solid defenders, and once JOSHUA and CHARLOTTE got a whiff of the ball the attack was all down the opposition's end. Great attacking forays by DALE and FERGUS were paid off by ANDREW scoring a brilliant goal! LINDSAY kept goals in the second half, and other than one brief scare, let no scoring shots into the goalmouth. DYLAN, KATHERINE & ABBY showed great positional play and held their lines to keep Redfield scoreless in the second half. Again, did I mention ANDREW BRUCE scored the winning goal?

Despite having 60 to 70% of the possession and numerous close opportunities we had to settle for a draw. It was a great team effort with plenty of thoughtful soccer by everybody. This game we had good rhythm passing the ball well and finding our own players, which created plenty of opportunities. A minor lapse in concentration in the second half let them through for a goal that came against the run of play. This fired them up and we did very well to defend the draw as they came back into the game playing much better than before. Patrick's goal was a great effort and even more commendable considering he had been in hospital having his appendix removed only a week before. Well done everybody.

U11/4 THORNLEIGH 1 vs EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS 2

Great start keeping the ball in scoring position. Several early goal attempts by us but none made the mark. We seemed to forget our positioning and not marking players and saw 2 goals scored against us in the first half. BRAD had a great game chasing, hassling and attempting goals. SAAMID saved us many a time in defense with his great kicks. MATT W. saved the day by scoring a great goal in the second half for a 2-1 loss. BRAD and SAAMID Men of the Match.

U12/1 THORNLEIGH 0 vs EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS 11

The boys were naturally disappointed by the result of this game however they all played really well and put in a huge effort. They were missing a couple of players from their regular lineup but special thanks to ALEX GRANT, WARWICK SPARKS and BRENDON DELLA from U12/5's for making up a full squad for us. SIMON KRISTENTHAL was constantly under pressure and successfully fended off many shots of goal - well done.

U12/5 THORNLEIGH 4 vs ROSELEA 1

The result is directly attributable to the coach CRAIG MILLARD's words of wisdom at half time. The team was 1 nil down after a break away try by the opposition just before the whistle. The team had lots of opportunities in the first half, but had no luck in scoring, keep trying the Coach said and you'll win 3 to 1. Well the boys and KEELY MCCONVILLE came on the field with renewed vigour and confidence and proved him wrong with 4 second half goals to add to the score line. Each goal was the result of great team work and passing the ball the well placed team mates waiting "up front" as instructed. Mention must be made of the dramatic header goal by WARWICK SPARKS from a corner, was he lying injured or just enjoying the moment? Everyone fired well and contributed to the exciting game, JORDAN SANT finished off some great team passes to land two goals. Keep up the good work everyone, our newer recruits are improving with every outing and the supporters should enjoy watching the final games as well as the round robin series.

U13/4 THORNLEIGH 1 vs WPH 1

U14/1 THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORMANHURST 1

U16/1 THORNLEIGH 0 vs YMCA 2

U16/3 THORNLEIGH 2 vs HILLS HAWKS 6

I guess everyone has a shocker once in a while and today was our turn! The game was played at Galston Park with a strong nor-wester blowing diagonally across the field. Apart from our stand-in keeper JONATHON STABLES from the 14/1s who didn't put a foot wrong, and dependable sweeper TOM KRISENTHAL, our defensive line-up was found lacking today. The first 10 minutes of play was all in the Hawks half but the opening goal went the other way. We were then in claw-back mode for the remainder of the first half, each of their 2 goals followed by a Thunder equaliser. The second half was a Hawks whitewash. Their strategy was simply to kick high balls through to their forwards, assisted by the wind, run around our defence and into the net. The 4-nil scoreline for the second half was a true indication of the match. Poor Jonno in goals was given far more work than he should have. Today was a glitch in our otherwise superb competition performance to date and I'm sure the guys will be back in form for the final two matches leading up to the championship series.

U16 GIRLS THORNLEIGH 1 vs LEICHHARDT 2

The girls have been playing excellent soccer for the last few weeks. Today again was almost as entertaining as Euro 2004! The first half it was a tight, taut match with nothing given away. TESS was always likely to produce a match-defining pass. She didn't manage it but there was one heart-stopping moment when she delivered the ball over MEL'S shoulder and into her path. It was still 0-0 at half-time. But we know of course that the first half is not the most important one. The second half had barely begun when Leichhardt scored their first goal and 10 minutes later they struck the framework of the goal and scored from the rebound. Shortly after that LUCY found space on the right after a weak defensive clearance and delivered the equalizer. They worked their guts out to try to get another ball in the net, but time was running out.

U18/1 THORNLEIGH 1 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 1

Thornleigh started this game brightly. They pressed forward from every position and had three genuine chances at scoring inside the first 10 minutes of play. Such was their ascendancy over their opponents that most of the action was confined to the Epping end of the pitch, with the exception of the occasional counter attack. Unfortunately, for players and fans alike, this standard proved to be short lived. The fluid style of play that has characterised Thunder games for the past several weeks deserted them, and with Epping never showing any sparkle, the game descended into a scrappy affair characterised by desperate defensive moves and overly optimistic attempts to play a direct style of football that never quite came off. Epping's lone score of the contest came somewhat against the run of play toward the end of the half. Thornleigh equalised ten minutes into the second half by way of a well-executed set piece. MATT THOMSETT delivered a corner kick into the goal mouth that JOSHUA CLARK picked up at the near post and deftly headed onto MICHAEL PAVITT who in turn headed it into the back of the net for his first goal of the season. OWEN RODGERS put in a game effort as stand in keeper for Thornleigh.

AA/3 THORNLEIGH 0 vs EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS 3

AA/7 THORNLEIGH 1 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 5

dis·mal (adj.)

Causing gloom or depression; dreary.

Characterised by ineptitude, dullness, or a lack of merit

Obsolete. Dreadful; disastrous.

Thornleigh AA/7's performance on Saturday.

As I am sure many of you will concur, there is something special about that feeling experienced each Saturday when you pull on the mighty blue and gold Thornleigh Thunder shirt. Perhaps it is the striking emphasis on contrast caused in the bold vertical stripes, or maybe it is the indescribable sense of nostalgia attached to the club and 50 years of Thunderism, which the shirt so powerfully represents, or it could just be the static electricity the silky fibres of the shirt inevitably cultivate. Whatever it is, that causes this heart pounding sense of pride, it was sadly lacking in all respects during our match on Saturday. As the afternoon sun grew tired and slipped towards the horizon, cold dark shadows crept menacingly across the dusty field until all that remained were the sombre remnants of light and indeed hope, the scene so representative of the way our season had slipped away into a gulf of despairing mediocrity. For this match, seemingly, was the final opportunity for our epic crusade to fulfil its promise of untold glory. Yet the climactic magnitude of the game was apparently lost on our players, as we succumbed to employing the depths of wanton and undisciplined footballing tactics, arguing with the referee and engaging in meaningless derogative bickering with the opposition. MICK's well-struck goal, his first as a proud Thunder player did provide a moment of joyous celebration early in the second half and a glimmer of hope engulfed our play for a brief time, arguably coinciding with KEANEY's injection of himself into the game. DAMIEN continued his week on week progression of improvement, and STEVE was stronger and more involved, lifting his head and distributing the ball better than he has done recently. But it was not enough, as we were comprehensively conquered by an ageing Epping-Eastwood team not so lacking in desire and ambition. Truly shameful.

AA/10 THORNLEIGH 2 vs RAVENS 2

AAWOMEN THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORTH EPPING 2

A Fight to the end this game was. It had us up against the second placed team in the comp and probably one of our main rivals. At the start of this match we were two points ahead of them on the table. We were pinned down in our own half for a majority of the first part of play and some excellent defence held out until we couldn't hold out any longer and we were scored against. The girls dug in deep and saw the score remain one down going into the break. The instructions at half time were to stay relaxed and positive and play our game. Well that's the way we started and resulting from a goal box scramble saw the mighty Thunder equalize. (Better known as a scab goal to the girls!) I think it was JULIA who connected (correct me if I'm wrong). Some missed opportunities during the game couldn't seem to get us ahead but we were still in it, fighting hard. All the girls gave it there all during the whole match and I am proud of you all. A late miss from DENIZ would have seen the game tied at 2-2 but it wasn't to be. A special thank you to the three U/16 players TESS, MEL and LUCY who worked very hard all day. See you all at training and stay focused and positive.

Over 35/2 THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORMANHURST 1

It has been several weeks since the 35/2's submitted a match report but something has inspired this under-appreciated scribe to submit one this week. Generally too much of anything will eventually take away its enjoyment (even chocolate mud cake and 20 year old scotch). The only exceptions to this rule are great sex (and I can only rely on what I have been told for this) and beating Normanhurst. Yes it is true – we have inflicted a second victory this season on our local arch rivals and this sure made the beers at our mid-year dinner on Saturday night taste oh so good!!! As the teams lined up for battle (both metaphorically and physically) the sides looked evenly matched on the injury front. Normanhurst were carrying one broken leg, two broken arms and a strained neck and we were carrying a broken arm, a torn calf muscle, a strained hamstring, a torn stomach muscle and a strained groin. Bearing in mind that all these injuries have been occurred whilst playing soccer this year, I think that it may be safer to dress entirely in black and pretend to be speed humps on Pennant Hills Road. To the game itself – it did not start well for Thornleigh team when they conceded a goal in the latter stages of the first half to go a goal behind. But the reply was quick when some clever footwork by Steve Thompson left the Normanhurst defender bamboozled and he eventually took Steve's leg from under him to concede a penalty. Despite his many similarities with David Beckham, Ross Gallagher coolly slotted the ball past the Normanhurst goalkeeper from the penalty spot to level the scores at half time. Thornleigh started the second half in inspired form and eventually a well worked move resulted in Steve Thompson smashing another goal home from 12 metres out to snatch the lead. It wasn't much longer until Michael Carter (yes the same one that it is only renowned for his defence skills) drove the ball into the top right hand corner of the Normanhurst net from 25 metres out to seal the victory. Thank you to the vocal Thornleigh supporters whose inspirational and truly creative verbal intercourse with the Normanhurst supporters (and players) was probably more entertaining than the game itself!

Over 35/4 THORNLEIGH 2 vs GRL 0

Over 35/6 THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 4

PL1/Res THORNLEIGH 3 vs PENNANT HILLS 2

PL1/1sts THORNLEIGH 1 vs PENNANT HILLS 1