



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.



SOCCER DIVISION

BLUE & GOLD NEWSLETTER

28th May 2005

**Premier League Division 1 Games - All Reserve Grade games at 1.15pm, All 1st Grade Games at 3.15pm
4/6/05 - Thornleigh vs Epping Eastwood - Home Game at Oakleigh Oval - Support Your Premier League!**

Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are into the second half of the soccer season already. This year has not been too kind to the Thornleigh Thunder Club. We have had a decline in overall numbers, some teams have disappeared completely while other teams are locked in a weekly struggle to find sufficient players to field. I wish there was more that the Club could do to help.

I am personally disappointed to see a fair number of our teams doing it so tough week after week. I know it is very disheartening for players, coaches, managers and parents to experience one-sided scorelines for many weeks. There are a number of our teams who have won very few games or none at all. No doubt morale is running low in some quarters.

I suppose this is where the real test of strength comes in, where commitment and team spirit resides in those teams doing it tough. It is easy to smile when the game goes your way and cheer your defeated opposition at the end of the game. But when things are not going your way, resilience is the key, to weather the bad times, to stay optimistic, to continue to play your best.

I strongly thank all those who continue to do their best during the difficult times. I call on the rest of the club to demonstrate their support for those teams that are struggling and to support them in anyway they can. Turning up to games, lending players, providing training support may help to get some teams through the bad patches.

One last thing I would like everyone to remember is that the scoreline is but one aspect of the game. Team spirit, personal fitness, skill development and enjoyment of the game far outweigh any final score. So just keep doing your best!

Yours in commitment

Rob Roberts

2005 Committee Members

Committee Position	Contact	Phone	Mobile	Email Address
President	Rob Roberts	9875 2197	0422 170 269	robinroberts@optusnet.com.au
Vice President	Craig Millard	9891 8943	0425 336 560	Craig.Millard@transport.nsw.gov.au
Secretary	Bruce Holliday	9484 6041	0408 165 738	bgholliday@bigpond.com
Treasurer	Tim Yeates	9484 3525	0418 641 649	tayeates@optusnet.com.au
Registrar	Mal Drummond	9945 2271	0407 263 938	mjdrummond@optusnet.com.au
Assistant Registrar	Steve Rayner	9875 3713	0401 684 106	serayner@bigpond.net.au
Marketing & Publicity Coordinator	David Richards	9484 9351	0419 626 321	richardsfamily@bigpond.com
Gear & Equipment	Bruce Eldridge	9484 9346	0412 235 964	beldridg@sta.nsw.gov.au
Assistant Gear & Equipment	Stephen Gamble	9484 5087	0400 245 976	sgamble@energy.com.au
Canteen & BBQ Coordinator	Beth Phillips	9945 0870	0409 948 870	beth.phillips@ing.com.au
Women's Soccer Delegate	Kyri Georgiou	9484 7869	0414 406 925	kgeorgio@bigpond.net.au
Recorder	Peter Krisenthal	9945 1850	0438 643 295	pkrisenthal@optusnet.com.au
Blue & Gold Editor	Karina Drummond	9945 2271	0412 399 958	kedrummond@optusnet.com.au
Coaching Co-ordinator	Ray Thompson	9481 0218	0409 124 331	
GHFA Delegate	Bruce Holliday	9484 6041	0408 165 738	bgholliday@bigpond.com
Sports Club Delegate	John Sparkes	9484 1195	0428 910 025	john.sparkes@dipnr.nsw.gov.au
Premier League Manager	Bruce Roff	9484 7970	0419 415 070	broff@ENGAUST.com.au
All Age Coordinator	Chris Keane		0422 067 868	
Over 35 Coordinator	Michael Carter	9484 9348	0419 049 253	carter@intercoast.com.au
Mini-Soccer Coordinator	Paul Patterson	9945 1317	0410 657 027	
Under 9 - 12 Coordinator	Chris Lowe	9875 4805	0408 288 818	lowemob1@bigpond.net.au
Under 13 - 18 Coordinator	John Sparkes	9484 1195	0428 910 025	john.sparkes@dipnr.nsw.gov.au

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U6 EMUS**THORNLEIGH 2 vs PUTNEY RANGERS 1**

The EMUS had a well deserved win with a nail biting second half. CHRISTOPHER WATT had a blinder in the goals not to mention the save of the season taking it all in his stride. We had 2 great goals scored by JOSH NATOLI and NATHAN POLLOCK only possible from some great attacking play from SAMUAL KALNINS, JOSH REIDY and LACHLAN HARRIS. The mid field was well played and defended with some big hits and some big kicks by RUEBEN SPARGO and RYAN CLARKE who both made a real impact in the second half. But the stand out for the EMUS was HARRISON DARGAN who ran his heart out, always with the ball keeping the pressure on, a well earned "MAN OF THE MATCH" for him this week. Well done EMUS. Dave I hope your voice returns!

U6 MAGPIE**THORNLEIGH 9 vs SAINTS UNITED 0**

No, you did not read the score incorrectly – the now Magnificent Magpies, having struggled all season and finally recorded their first, narrow win last week, triumphed 9 – 0 against a valiant Saints United – with only 5 players!! Having received a few hammerings early in the season, the ever growing band of Magpies fans never expected to feel sorry for the other team but, sure enough, as the score mounted relentlessly in the second half, coach and parents could be heard to mutter 'I hope the Saints can get at least one goal'. In the end, the referee provided by the Saints must have decided that enough permanent psychological damage had been done to the Saints, as he ended the second half almost 5 minutes early. By then, ALEXANDER HORSPOOL had scored his first goal since the pre-season, TOM KENNEDY had scored 6, and our now second top scorer for the season, OWN GOAL had grabbed two, the first in particular and spectacular effort from just outside the box. We are hoping that OWN will make an appearance next week too. The other three Magpies players on the day, JULIA MOKSDI, RORY MADDEN and ELANI WILD all had very good games, with both JULIA and RORY keeping a clean sheet in goals and contesting the ball well on the field, and ELANI just about doubling her quota of kicks for the year. So, well done Magpies let's keep our winning streak of two games going.

U6 PLATYPUS**THORNLEIGH 0 vs ALL SAINTS HUNTERS HILL 12**

Backing up after another huge win last week, Thornleigh continued to show skill and courage this week against All Saints Hunters Hill. Unfortunately, the Saints got the upper hand early on and our boys could not recover. TOMMY JIANG showed no fear as goal keeper for the first half, saving many goals. JOSHUA DE SILVA was persistent in attack in the first half and made some great saves as Goalie in the second half. DANIEL MERRICK was awarded the Player of the Match with good all round play on the field. CODY JERVIS & WILLEM OATES demonstrated good speed and ball control but were unlucky not to score. ROBERT BRADLEY threw himself into the game with tough tackling. LACHLAN DAWES ran hard all match, remaining in the thick of the action. DOMINIC MANNELL had a strong all round performance. Although the score does not reflect it, the boys showed great spirit and are all eager for a better result next week.

U7 EMUS**THORNLEIGH 0 vs HOLY CROSS 8 21st May**

SEAN NOTLEY-RUBENS in goal was outstanding in the first half. There were a number of fine individual performances by AIDAN LANE, JACK NAYLOR and MICHELLE KEZERLE. Despite the score the Emus did mount a number of attacks and went close to scoring. The skills learnt in training are starting to show on the park with some fine passing between MARK NEWLAND, TESSA GIBBONS and LIAM KIRK. In goal in the second half. RHIANNA MALONE tried her hardest Well done team, for another whole hearted effort.

U7 KOALA'S**THORNLEIGH 2 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 2**

The team, support staff, cheer squad, mums & dads, sisters and brothers headed on down the highway in search of Woods Street Oval. A few of us had already been there before, when looking for another oval a few games ago. What a pretty little place! We set up for what we thought was oval number 2, then had to move to the other oval. Negotiations took place as to who would ref, and Mr Paul Cleasby was nominated as the Thunders man. Again much excitement was generated from the numerous shots we had on goal, but we just couldn't put the ball away. We even flipped it once over the goal. We went 1 down against the run of play, but came back to even the score to be 1 all at half time. The boys were absolutely dead tired in the second half from the end to running, even with 2 substitutes. Another goal scored against us, but with great persistence we evened up by full time. Man of the match has got to be given to Mr BEN HAYWARD. His dribbling style is just fantastic to watch. Well done Ben. Also "Bon Voyage" to ALEX WILD off to England to have a holiday (and study the international football scene.) This week we play Pennant Hills Soccer Club at Magdala 3 (Magdala Rd North Ryde) at 10.45.

U7 MAGPIES**THORNLEIGH 0 vs REDFIELD LIONS 14 21st May**

Although a more physical game than normal, Thornleigh's spirits were not dampened. SOPHIA TOWNEND was soon back in the game after being knocked off her feet. The score did not reflect the energy the whole team put in, with even more tackles and good runs. ISABEL SEAMAN drove the ball forward on several occasions before saving many shots at goal in the second half. This earned her the best player award. ERIKA LOVE tackled hard and broke free from the crowd several times and AIMEE LOVE showed improvements in her marking of players. BEN HURWOOD played very good defence, working well with NIKLAS RASMUSSEN. JACK TOWNEND ploughed up the field only to be stopped from scoring at the very last moment. Keeping his eye on the ball, RYAN HODGES showed great improvements in his tackling, earning him the Most Improved Player award. Overall, a great show of team spirit this week.

U7 MAGPIES

THORNLEIGH 0 vs HOLY CROSS 9 28th May

The result this week does not reflect the marked improvement of the U7 Magpies as demonstrated by their increased skills and support for each other on the field. ERIKA LOVE did very well in goals for the first half and skilfully saved many attempts by Holy Cross – earning her our “Most Improved Player” of the week. NICKLAS RASMUSSEN and RYAN HODGES were great support to ERIKA as they continued to show excellent defending skills. JACK TOWNEND’s enthusiasm boosted the team to great efforts. Also JACK, AIMEE LOVE and SOPHIA TOWNEND continued to hassle the opposition and were never far from the ball at any time. Our “Player of the Week”, BENJAMIN HURWOOD, showed great skills in ball control when he took the ball up the field past the opposition. Very impressive again was ISABEL SEAMAN’s game skills as she also took the ball up the field and made an attempt at goal that was just stopped by the opposition. A great game all round and an impressive display of everyone’s improving skills – bringing smiles to all the parents – a big Thanks to Coach Steve !

U7 ECHIDNAS

NO REPORT

U8 RED

THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS B 1

A great game by all accounts except for the score. The team played well, held their positions and fought hard. Penno scored in the dying seconds of the game that was extended by 30 seconds to cater for an injury stoppage. Player of the Match was MARK RICHARDS who not only played well in goals but had an active game on the field. All the boys were involved and contributed. Well done team. You can be proud of your game.

U8 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs BEECROFT SOCCER CLUB 1

Congratulations all round as our team was really on the ball this week, with energetic and enthusiastic play by all. Our Man of the Match, BEN WALLWOOD, was really fired up this week and both he and CHRISTIAN FARRELL-DENINA scored a great goal each after some impressive teamwork. JAMES PATTERSON put in an especially energetic game with a particularly good through-pass in the first half, followed by a near-miss at a goal, and ERIC JIANG again showed good form in repeatedly intercepting the ball. TOMMY SIMCOCK ran determinedly after the ball and kicked it away from the opposition many times throughout the game, as did RYAN MALLET. RYAN also did a great intercept in the first half to stop an opposition attack. The score at half time was one all, with Thornleigh dominating possession of the ball. The second half saw some good running and intercepts by JACK GREEN, ROBERT JONES and JONATHON MEIKLE, but it was the aerial kick by BEN which took us into the lead. DANIEL FOWLER put in some good runs and tackling which ensured that we kept control of the ball. Some good strategic play by CHRISTIAN, who also had a near-miss at a goal, and impressive kicks up the field by both PETER WADDELL and ANDREW HADDAD kept the opposition on their toes. HAYDEN SIMONS was in goals in the second half, after tirelessly engaging with the opposition in the first half. A very happy team at the end of the game.

U9/2

THORNLEIGH 1 vs MACQUARIE COMBINED 0

Yeeee.....hah!!! There must be something about having 11 players on the field. For only the second time this season the boys had a full team and for only the second time they had a win. For most of the game we were all over them like a Demis Roussos caftan but found it hard to score, even with the unusual 7 forward three back formation. Finally just after half time BIFF took the ball in midfield, ploughed forward and laid the ball off to a determined ADRIAN who jinked three times, feinted left, went right and with the outside of his foot flicked the ball past the goalie. The crowd went wild and we had to hold back the real enthusiasts that wanted to invade the pitch. Finally we saw some structure at the back which ensured the opposition got nowhere near our goal with TOM D and NICK S holding their positions fantastically well. CAMPBELL, MITCH, MAX, TOM L and NICK C all had shots on goal and we were really only thwarted by a good goalie from a more emphatic win. Thanks to JOSH who stood in goals in the second half getting frostbite for lack of action. WILL had a great game in midfield constantly rounding up the loose ball and pushing it forward. Everyone played well today and with hopefully a full team again next week we can repeat the dose.

U9/8

BYE

U10/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 1

This had to be the best game so far this season. With only 10 players we redeemed ourselves from the 5-0 loss to this team at the beginning of the season. Like a warrior guarding the castle, so did TIM CLAREMONT guard the goals. Many saves prevented the opposition from scoring anything but a penalty kick. The ever efficient JOHN BAYNIE saw to the goal that put us in the lead right up until the last 5 minutes of the match. Excellent defence was provided by the ever charging DARREN JOOSTEN and OLIVER JUDSON while the mid fielders SAMUEL LANE, ALSDAIR BELLING, CAMERON SHARIFI and JOHN BAYNIE kept the ball going forward. The brilliant forward play by JAMES PAEK, SAMUEL CLARKE and ROBERT STARREVELD ensured more than a few attempts were made at the goals. A brilliant effort by every single team member – way to go boys!

U10/7

THORNLEIGH 1 vx GLENHAVEN 1

U11/5 THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORTH RYDE 2

U12/1 THORNLEIGH 0 vs CARLINGFORD 5

We always knew that our debut in first division was going to be tough but I am sure we are going to be better for it. We played a reasonable game but we were missing two of our 'gun' forwards which was always going to blunt our attack. None-the-less, CONNOR played an outstanding game and repeatedly lead the charge against the opposition. Our defences were busier than a fly at a banquet and everyone pushed themselves as hard as they could. We must be closing in on a win soon. Just keep doing what you're doing.

U12/3 THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS-CHERRYBROOK 2

May 28 dawned crisp and clear with the cold whip of an icy wind off the Antarctic ice cap. Somebody said, "let's go play soccer/football" and we did. Two evenly matched teams battled it out on the field of green with defences dominant until the fifteenth minute when WPH-C took advantage of a goal mouth mix up to hammer a high shot home. SAAMID, KELSEY and SCOTT at the back scrambled to cover continued WPH-C forward charges and managed to repel them until the twenty-fifth minute when a loose WPH-C player slotted a second goal. TOM, DANYON and JORDAN in the mid-field were trying to build an attacking platform but a very tight defence made the going tough. Highlight of the half was a great diving save by NICK. The second half started pretty much the same as the first- an armwrestle for domination (but with feet instead of arms). Thornleigh were beginning to construct plays and were rewarded in the tenth minute with a well taken goal by JOSH, score now 2-1! Could they equalise? Keep on reading folks! BRADLEY and NATHAN at the back were snuffing all the WPH-C attacking raids enabling the two MATTS (MATTHEW D and W) greater freedom to stay forward on attack. In the twentieth minute of the second half KEL latched onto a through-ball and with precision accuracy pushed a through-ball to cool-hand JOSH who propped, steadied and drove home the equaliser. 2-2. Thornleigh continued to push but just couldn't take home the win. Great game guys! The reporter's choice was SCOTT and coach's player of the match JORDAN.

U13/2 THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORMANHURST 1

This game was approached with a fair degree of confidence by the boys in consideration of the teams' relative position on the ladder. The first half saw the Thunder out to a good start with some excellent real chances created but with the ball centering in the goalie in each instance. The boys showed they have the ability to provide great attacking ability but the passing and mid field positional play dropped off a bit in the latter part of the first half. Having an outstanding game was WARWICK and his ability to overcome his knee injury demonstrated real commitment really. Also very prominent were our two defenders again and the result without them could have resulted in our first loss - well done especially to DANIEL this week. MATTHEW had a great second and once again was very unlucky not to have put home the winning goal. SIMON as usual had a very solid game as did JOEL and BRENT. I believe it was Peter Gabriel who once said "you are what you wear" - LACHLAN proved that today with his new boots more than proving their worth with a great goal. Next week will hopefully see the Thunder back into a winning way.

U13/5 THORNLEIGH 5 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 0

This was the best win so far this season with five unanswered goals. Although the teamwork wasn't as slick as last week, the goals game due to some crisp passing between the team. DAVID JAKKA was able to score twice (being his first goals ever), and another two by BRENDAN MEW and one by JORDAN SANT. The midfield again worked tirelessly, and special mention needs to go to ALEX HOUSE who put in a big effort roaming all over the pitch. Our latest recruit DARIO JOHANSSON (courtesy of the 12/3's) seems to be slotting into the rhythm of the team.

U14/3 THORNLEIGH 0 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 8

We started the game with all guns firing but confidence took its toll. I know it is disappointing when you look at the score but our performance was better than what the score suggests. It was never going to be an easy year with moving up a division and having a minimum of players to field each week. However, we're doing the best we can and that's the most important thing. Don't give up trying!

U15/1 THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS (Red) 2

A hard fought draw against a team equal with us on the table. OLIVER WELLS scored both goals, the first being a long high shot that the Keeper simply couldn't handle, with the second a great header off a brilliant cross by DESHAN JEGASTHESWARAN. We had our chances to win as well, but WPH never gave up and were also helped by a fairly soft penalty decision in the first half. But a draw was still a fair indication of the game. RYAN HOWISON had a great game in both defence and attack, as did OSCAR MARONEY in the midfield.

U17/2

THORNLEIGH 0 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 1

No complaints about the way the Thunders played today. Building on last week's positive game, the boys did everything coaches Craig and Matt have asked of them. The only goal of the game came from a towering Ravens penalty from 25 metres out, which cleared everyone and everything except the cross bar. CHRIS BROWN had a cracker of a game tearing through the mid field and setting up many chances. And his giant throw-ins are a sight to behold, some of them being caught on the full by the opposing keeper in his own goal mouth. It's difficult to single out players for mention but SAFA ZOWGHI had a strong game in left midfield, as did JACK PACKHAM in centre mid, and MATT ELDRIDGE in the backs. LIAM RAYNER so often goes in hard and comes up with the goods in defence. Our passing between midfielders and strikers was a pleasure to watch. The Thunders were mostly camped in the Ravens territory, particularly in the second half, and were unlucky not to convert the many chances they set up. Congratulations guys, just keep to the game plan and the goals will come.

AA/1

THORNLEIGH 1 vs RYDE DISTRICT PANTHERS 3

AA/3

THORNLEIGH 2 vs HILLS HAWKS 3

AA/6 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 2 vs DURAL 0

This was the Grand Final replay and an important game for both teams. The 'Thunderbirds' started well and were rewarded with an early goal by JULIA. The defence of ADELAIDE, LIZ, RHIAN, JO and KATE was outstanding - tight marking, solid challenges and very little space to the opposition. The pleasing aspect of the game was the way the midfield put some great through balls for our forwards. JULIA was put through and with great speed as usual finished superbly for our second goal. LEE, ANGIE, AMANDA, JACKIE, MARISSA combined well and gave the opposition very few chances as well as turning them around on many occasions. JULIA and LAURA had super games up front - great runs, speed and both put the Dural defence under tremendous pressure. MEL had a solid game as goalie and had to make some crucial intercepts. Overall, great game and fine team work!

Last week the heading should have been: Thornleigh 1 vs Balmain 0 .

AA/7

THORNLEIGH 5 vs NORMANHURST 2

AA/15

THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST RYDE EAGLES 4

O35/1

THORNLEIGH 3 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS (Red) 1

O35/4

THORNLEIGH 0 vs EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS 3

PL1/Res

THORNLEIGH 6 vs NORTHERN FC 1

The team was strengthened for this game by the return from injury of ANDREW ZVIRBLIS, CHRIS WOOD, LUKE DAWSON and MATTHEW BARBER. STEVE JACK opened the scoring in the second minute of play then scored again in the 3rd and 6th minute. This hat trick of goals in the first 6 minutes must surely be some kind of local record. SIJMON VAN LOON scored Thunder's fourth goal of the first half with a perfectly taken free kick. Northern managed to get one goal back when our defence took their eyes off the ball. CHRIS WOOD scored two second half goals and was unlucky not to equal STEVE JACK'S first half hat trick. Keeper DAVID BALL played well and started many of Thunder's attacking moves with his long clearance kicks. MATTHEW FITZGERALD played one of his best games of the season, while SIJMON VAN LOON form continues to improve. Thunder must now build on this result if they are to challenge the teams in the top half of the competition. Best & Fairest points went to MATTHEW FITZGERALD 3 points, STEVE JACK, 2 points, while SIJMON VAN LOON & DISH SINGH shared 1 point each. Well done to all players.

PL1/1sts

THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORTHERN FC 1

Early in the game you would have thought Thunder were at the bottom of the table and not our opponents. Our lackluster play contributed to Northern's striker walking through our defence to score the opening goal. To the relief of the bench Thunder scored the equalizer just before half time when an AVAN YOUNG shot deflected off a Northern defender into the back of the net. 1:1 at half time was enough encouragement to stir the players into action. RYAN ROFF, adding to his goal tally, scored Thunder's second goal. LUKE SMITHERS delivered the final blow to Northern's chances when he squeezed a shot between the post and the keeper. Mid way through the second half AVAN YOUNG was knocked out following a head clash with Northern's sweeper. Fortunately our sports therapist, Kelly Place, was on hand to bring AVAN back to consciousness. Ambulance officers later cleared AVAN of any injuries. A pleasing aspect of the game was Thunder's improved discipline. By contrast Northern players received a number of yellow cards and had a player sent off late in the game. Best & Fairest points went to MARK HOLLIDAY 3 points, RYAN ROFF 2 points, while MATTHEW FRENCH and AVAN YOUNG shared 1 point each. Thunder takes on Epping Eastwood next week, at Oakleigh Oval.