



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter



14-15 July 2007

Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Another busy weekend of football as the school holidays came to an end. Thank you to everyone who doubled up on games or lent players. We have at least four teams in the race for Premiers this season. The 11/5, 15/2, 15/4 and All Age Five Womens teams are looking hot favourites to finish first in their respective deivisions.

The next two weekends are the 'washed out' games from last month. Please check carefully where and when you are scheduled to play, if in doubt contact the secretary, Graeme Tingle for confirmation. At this stage, we can't afford to forfeit a game due to a mix up. Managers, please ensure all your players are clear about game details for next weekend.

Premier League have kept their dream alive for a top four finish with a nil all draw with Normanhurst, although our reserve team lost but are not out yet. Congratulations to the 35/2 who thrashed their opposition on Sunday morning at Oakleigh. The 35/5 had an unexpected halt to their winning streak when they met up with a very determined Hunters Hill outfit.

Let's keep the pressure up.

Yours in commitment,

Rob Roberts

The **Injured Player Raffle** will be drawn at 7.00pm on Saturday 28 July at Pennant Hills Bowling Club. Could you please make sure your ticket stubs and money are returned in an envelope to the canteen at Oakleigh Oval prior to 12.00 on the 28th. Thank you to those teams who have already sold all their tickets. Your support is appreciated.

If you have any problems returning the tickets by the 28th please ring Bruce Roff on 0419 415 070.

RESULTS

GHFA Competition - 14.7.2007			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/2	Gladesville Ravens	1	0
U9/4	Holy Cross College	0	7
U9/7	Ryde District	0	0
U10/3	Ryde District	0	4
U11/5	Normanhurst	5	0
U12/4	Gladesville Sharks	5	1
U13/4	Carlingford Redbacks	2	0
U14/1	West Pennant Hills	2	2
U14/4	Hills Hawks	0	8
U15/2	Redfield	3	0
U15/4	Carlingford Redbacks	6	0
AA/2	Epping YMCA	3	0
AA/6	Macquarie Combined	4	0
AA/9	Gladesville Ravens	2	4
AA/11	Carlingford Redbacks	4	1
AA/17	West Ryde Eagles	0	2
AA/19	Epping YMCA	0	2
O35/2	Gladesville Ravens	7	0
O35/5	All Saints Hunters Hill	3	4
PL/Res	Normanhurst	0	3
PL/1st	Normanhurst	0	0

NWSWS Competition - 15.7.2007			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U12/7	Kenthurst	0	3
U12/8	West Ryde Rovers	1	0
U14/4	Epping YMCA	1	6
U15/1	Roselea	3	6
U15/2	Forfeit to THL		
AA/5	Gladesville Ravens	1	1
AA/9	North Epping Rangers	0	2
AA/10	West Ryde Rovers	0	1



Thunder FC Sponsors - 2007 Season

Thunder FC relies on the financial support of it's sponsors to provide the necessary gear and equipment and supplement the various running costs of the club. Therefore, we gratefully acknowledge the support of the following sponsors for the 2007 season and encourage everyone associated with Thunder FC to support these local businesses.

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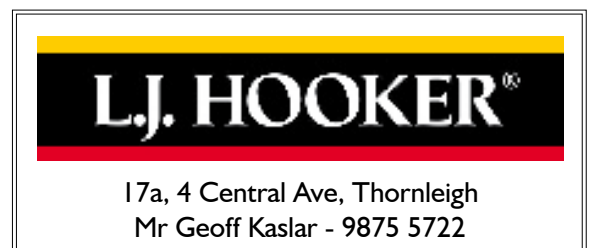


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UNDER 6 KANGAROO



THORNLEIGH 4 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 4

The game commenced with a strong kick off from the Thunder. Some good support play from NICK COLLEY had his brother BEN COLLEY scoring the first goal of the match. The opposition had turned up to play this week and we knew we had a challenge on our hands. Lots of pressure was put on our goalkeeper WILLIAM SPARGO who made several great saves in the first half. JAMES RICKWOOD lurked around the attacking zone pouncing on the loose balls and a great pass from AIDEN ELLIOTT through to JAKE DARGAN who slotted the second goal for the Kangaroos. The opposition responded well and when the half time whistle blew, THL 2 – WRR 2. This was shaping up as one of the closest games we have faced all season. With the pressure mounting the coach and manager pulled the team together for a half time huddle and some well earned oranges. The start of the second half saw JAKE DARGAN take to the goals. An immediate attack from WILLIAM SPARGO and DANIEL BIDWELL almost saw some classic goals. The opposition made a quick break and scored to take the lead for the first time. DOMINIC MATHIOUDAKIS was trying to get amongst the action and a couple of big kicks enabled excellent attacking runs. NICK COLLEY capitalised on an opportunity resulting in an equalizer. DANIEL BIDWELL made some excellent defensive moves reading the play and turning defence into attack. JAMES RICKWOOD had a strong run and again was unlucky not to score. With only two minutes to go the opposition hit back with a great shot that found the back of the net. With the opposition awarded repeated corners the Kangaroos were looking down the barrel of their second defeat. Some excellent defensive team work and balls skills saw NICK COLLEY make a length of the field run and slot his second goal for a well earned 4 all draw. WILLIAM SPARGO was awarded the man of the match for his strong performance in goal, which included numerous saves, good listening to instructions and team work.

UNDER 6 KOALAS



THORNLEIGH 2 vs GLENHAVEN 5

Once again, another hard match for the Koalas, playing with only 5 on the field and having no reserves. After a fierce few minutes with both sides tackling hard for the ball, Glenhaven pulled ahead by 2 goals but the Koalas didn't give up as they continued to attack the ball showing some terrific teamwork. LEON obtained possession of the ball and single-handedly chased the ball down towards the goal and managed to score a terrific goal with a great kick, sending the ball flying high above the goalie's head. MASON worked hard during the first half as our goalie, ensuring no more balls got past him. Just before halftime HARRISON managed to obtain possession of the ball just near our goal and quickly sent it flying back in; his first goal for the season. HUGH worked tirelessly in defense during the first

half with BEN constantly in the action. As we reached half time the score was tied at 2 all. The second half saw LEON, HARRISON and MASON putting in a solid effort, always getting in and chasing down the ball. BEN contributed once again with some outstanding runs, demonstrating his speed and power. HUGH was our goalie for second half saved some potential goals, unfortunately as the end drew near Glenhaven scored 3 consecutive goals all with the last few minutes, leaving the score at 5 – 2. A tremendous effort from all the boys. Well done Koalas!

UNDER 6 MAGPIES



THORNLEIGH 3 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 2

On a cold winters morning our boys turned out one of their best performances yet against West Ryde Rovers, with a team of bigger boys. The Thunder determination triumphed in an exhilarating game. JARRET WILSON was awesome in goal making some telling saves, he was helped in defence by the ever present BRADLEY HOWARD who is playing great soccer. JORDAN-LEE BACON and EDWARD JIANG again made impact in defence and assisted with the Thunder attack. We had some great attacking runs from MORGAN HUGHES, LUCIAN CHAMPION and OLIVER DEWEY but the day belonged to DANIAL PATTERSON who scored all 3 Thunder goals, the third coming on the stroke of full time after a run from the half way line. All players stepped up and played very well and I'm sure all parents are very proud.

UNDER 7 KANGAROOS



THORNLEIGH 5 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 3

Hurrah! After many a promising starts we have finally won a game and what a game it was. It seems that the lack of training and the late nights that usually accompany holidays have paid off for the U7 Kangaroos with a convincing win. Every single player put their heart and soul into the match with CYRENA BOURIS and CONOR DRUMM coming away with 3 and 2 goals respectively. While EDWARD SIMCOCK and DANIAL CLYNCH proved to be very effective goal keepers only letting in 3 goals. In the middle of the field HANNAH SEPAROVICH and JAMIE WATSON demonstrated some excellent kicking, tackling and passing, setting up some great opportunities. Finally JACK FERGUSON provided some much needed defence thwarting several attempts at goals by the opposition. Well done team - a much deserved win.

UNDER 7 EMUS



THORNLEIGH 3 vs GLENHAVEN 3

What a great game! It see-sawed from one side to another but in the end it represented a fair result. After a going behind to an early goal, ETHAN showed great individual skills to level the scores. MATTHEW, HAMISH and THOMAS worked well as a team, closing down any attack and freeing LEWIS and DANIEL to make individual runs towards goal. Despite going down to another goal, the team's hard work paid off as DANIEL scored an equaliser. WILLIAM tackled with skill, setting up LEWIS for a fast run up the wing and a goal of the season. Unfortunately, the Emus could not hold on to the lead by the final whistle. LIAM was Player of the Week for his work in chasing down all attacks and a number of excellent goal keeping saves.

Thornleigh Thunder 'Encouragement Award'
Winner: Under 7 Emus - 14 July 2007

Congratulations to the U7 Emus, for being the winner of this weekend's 2007 McDonalds 'Encouragement Award'.

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Would the Team Manager please contact the vice president by Wednesday of this week to pick up the certificates for a free burger, fries and Coke and free entry for Thunder players into various Sydney Attractions. Club contact details can be found on the website at www.thornleighsports.org.au

goal (2-2) with some terrific chasing and commitment from ROBBIE BRADLEY and RHORDAN STEPHENS as they really smothered the North Ryde team. A quick counter punch gave the opposition the lead (3-2) with about 2 minutes left in the first half. After some solid tackling and hard chasing by DANIEL MERRICK and some terrific passes from QUINN CAMPBELL, we finished off the half at (3-3), with neither side wanting to budge in a match that was becoming bigger than BEN HUR! After playing a good first half in goals (nursing a skiing injury!) CODY JERVIS came out and played a few minutes on rotation and after some genius work in the goal mouth, completed off some great THUNDERING to take the lead (4-3). But we were only just back onside when the North Ryde team countered again (4-4), with no one willing to give an inch! BRENDAN MUDALIAR upped the tempo in the midfield and provided better service than the Socceroos, combining well with JOSH, QUINN and DANIEL up front to give us the edge once more as JOSH slid across the face of the goal mouth after a super pass to put us back in front (5-4). As the wind blew harder, the chill factor increased, the intensity of the cheer squad built to a crescendo, which saw the THUNDER display their trademark 'never give up attitude'. With only seconds on the clock, ROBBIE did a great drop kick from goals which was controlled beautifully by RHORDAN who displayed the vision of an artist as he transferred the ball towards the opposition half where the monotremes combined to score their 6th goal as they shut the gate on what had been a thoroughly absorbing contest. For great effort and non-stop commitment, QUINN CAMPBELL was 'Player of the Week'. Well done Platypii! For those who remember the 80s classic by Billy Ocean, the words 'As the going get's tough the tough get going' resonated around the park and were heard in cars as they traveled north down Epping Rd on the way back to the home of THUNDER.

UNDER 7 PLATYPUS



THORNLEIGH 6 vs NORTH RYDE 4

Cold, windy and slushy were the first three words that came to mind as we trekked across the lower section of Magdala Park at North Ryde on Saturday to meet the next team in the Platypus 2007 tour. The monotremes were displaying the energy of a bunch of jack-in-the-boxes as they went into their pre-match routine, chasing and running after one another, but would this potential be transferred onto the field? Finally we were off and running and the team started well, with many consistent challenges and great shots and within a few minutes JOSH DE SILVA had scored the first of a quintuple-trick (5 goals) with a shot that had more speed than Sydney drivers in the Lane Cove Tunnel. Not to be outdone, the North Ryde team dug deep and their version of speedy Gonzales scored two quick goals in reply to make it 1-2 half way into the first period. Like always the Thunder refused to lie down and got back up to score another

UNDER 7 WALLABY



THORNLEIGH 3 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 5

The team was all raring to go after the week off. MATTHEW BUTLER, player of the week, scored our first goal after a good throw in. There was much running back and forth up and down the field which the team seemed to enjoy. Many thanks must go to JAKE DARGAN our reserve for the week and recipient of the Skills Award, even though he had just played another match he showed no signs of tiredness and tackled well to save the opposition's attempts at goal. LACHLAN HARRIS also helped to defend our goal with a particularly impressive kick to take the ball half way down the field and out of danger. He also took many hard knocks this week but was not afraid to get straight back into the mix. MATTHEW BUTLER scored again just before the first half ended to level the match. ROWAN WOOD had two near misses at goal in the second half due to the diligence of the opposition's goalkeeper. DANIEL DRAPER our second half goalie, not to be outdone defended well with some good saves. NICHOLAS WENSLEY who received the MERIT AWARD this week played well with good consistent tackling and defending. JAMES YOUNG ran the ball well and passed to MATTHEW BUTLER to score our last goal of the match. The team played well even though the score did not reflect this.

UNDER 8 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 3 vs GLENHAVEN 0

After a first round clash with Glenhaven that saw a nil all result the boys did extremely well to come away with such a convincing win. RYAN SMART and NATHAN POLLOCK had great games up front, RYAN always after the ball and NATH bagging two nice goals. TOM McDOWALL and JOSH NATOLI had rippers with TOM netting a beautiful goal and JOSH in all the right places at the right times stopping plenty of their play and creating even more. Defending this week was RORY MADDEN and WILLEM OATES who were outstanding with lots of close calls but always keeping them out and not giving up a single goal after heaps of attempts. REUBEN SPARGO and ALEXANDER HORSPOOL in defence as well, also did everything required to keep the opposition out. REUBEN solid as usual and ALEX getting stronger and stronger in defence every week. HARRISON DARGAN a half in the goals and a half in the mid field played both positions perfectly as usual, no goals in and plenty of play making. The stand out for this week was YASHAR ELLIIN who thoroughly deserved the "MAN of the MATCH" award as he was every where he should have been and everywhere else too. Great game YASH and well done boys.

UNDER 8 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 2

This was an exciting game between two well-matched sides. There were moments of brilliance in the first half, where MARCUS YUEN was unlucky in an early goal attempt, having taken the ball a full half field after some great ground work from NICHOLAS BASSETT in the mid-field. ELLY RICKWOOD hit her straps early with some fabulous footwork jettisoning the ball out of tight spots and straight in to the control of the forwards. CAMERON CHOI's goal keeping kept him busy with some spectacular saves on the odd occasions that the ball got past ZOE MATHIOUDAKIS and ADAM WALKER playing their usual big kicking game. Despite all the determination and energetic activity of the first half, including another unlucky miss at goal right towards the end, the Whites were down 0-2 at half time.

And then there was the second half! And didn't the team turn the game around! JORDANN VAN WYK shone in defence with a feisty determination hitherto unseen; NICHOLAS ROSE's tackling skills came to the fore at exactly the right time. GEMMA CAMPBELL-PARRY was instrumental in turning the ball around, allowing the forwards to keep the play in the White's half for most of the second half. The excitement escalated when JAYDEN PAK manoeuvred the ball almost the length of the field allowing VEERAN MUDALIAR to score the Whites' first goal. Finally, just to prove themselves, the team pulled together with ANDREW WADDELL taking the lead getting the ball back up the pitch to allow the second goal.

The Player of the Match award this week went to Jordann Van Wyk for consistently great defensive work and concentration throughout the game.

UNDER 9/2

THORNLEIGH 1 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 0

Bastille Day dawned and the phone started to ring. Not as expected for birthday wishes but from parents telling me that their boy could not make it because of the flu and other winter afflictions. By the time I was heading to the match at Peel Park against the Ravens we were down to 10 players with a big challenge ahead. As it turned out, the Ravens were also down on numbers due to school holidays and ailments and the game commenced evenly balanced without any need to consider strategic subbing. The game got off to a watchful start with most of the play in the middle of the park. After about five minutes BEN HAYWOOD once again displayed amazing form to take the ball from inside our half after a well-timed pass and with fancy footwork left at least 3 defenders in his wake to dash down the length of the field with only the goalie to beat and placed a well-timed shot into the back of the net. The PARENTS and BOYS were ecstatic and the game was on in full-flight. Not long after the Ravens had their opportunity to equalise with a penalty in the box. BYRON was poised for a big save and his intimidating stand off left the striker with jelly like resolve sending the ball wide and a happy reprieve. BEN HURWOOD had a blinder of a game. BEN (GINGER) HURWOOD was in the thick off the action not only sending through great passes in the middle but taking on the opposition and reveling in out-smarting the Ravens as he took the ball on several runs up the field. JORDAN SIMONS was on a mission to try and score or stop the Ravens scoring as an extra present for his DAD. On numerous occasions JORDAN hit the dirt only to get up and tenaciously take on the next play. JORDAN (BLONDIE) DAVIS and ADAM were ever present in defence making clearing kicks to get the team out of danger on many occasions. NICKLAS had returned from the Scandinavian summer, shook off the jet lag and produced some of the big kicks that we know he is capable of. At one time in the game, NICKLAS launched about three kicks into the goal only to be foiled by their diligent goalie. In the second half HAYDEN took on the goalie duties and was also put in the hot spot defending another penalty in the box. This time the Ravens brought out a new kicker who appeared confident as he steadied to kick the goal. HAYDEN's cat like reflexes meant he anticipated where the ball was heading, bottom left corner, and managed to get a boot to the ball to deflect it beside the post. What a SAVE! CAI also had a great game in the forwards. When the final whistle blew the victory was complete. Man of the Match: BEN (GINGER) HURWOOD for best game of the year; BEN HAYWOOD for great footwork and goal; HAYDEN TODOROSKI for goal saving ability.



UNDER 9/4

THORNLEIGH 0 vs HOLY CROSS COLLEGE 7

Holy Cross showed us why they're sitting in first place in the competition yesterday, with a stunning display of teamwork and big kicks at goal. Goalies JONATHON and ALEX W were kept busy throughout trying to fend of the ruthless attack, but just weren't always quick enough, wide enough, or tall enough to stop everything. ALEX B, TESSA, JACK S, JULIAN and CALLUM tackled their hearts out in a bid to slow down the attack, with some great sliding tackles from TESSA, while JACK T, HARRISON, THOMAS, and ISABEL worked hard in the midfields. MILES and CARLY again combined well in the forwards, making some great attacking breaks, but the Holy Cross defence held firm. Player of the Match: JACK TOWNEND.

UNDER 9/7

THORNLEIGH 0 vs RYDE DISTRICT 0

Our Under 9 Division 7 team played an exciting match, to walk away with a well deserved draw on Saturday morning at Oakleigh Oval, against Ryde District. Our opposition is coming 2nd in the competition against our 5th place, so this was an important match. In the 1st round we lost 1-4 to this team, so the draw result is a real credit to all our players and displays how well the team has bonded and improved with each game's performance. As we have reported many times over this season, all players put in 100% commitment. Special mention must go to NICHOLAS YUAN, who excelled in his defensive mid-field role, delivering good long balls to our attacking players and thwarting many opposition attacking runs. Other strong performances included RYAN LEE, ANTHONY DANG, and JOSEPH NGUYEN who were all unlucky to narrowly miss scoring goals. MATTHEW ALLAN, LACHLAN ALLEN, DYLAN MCGILL, MARK NEWLAND, ANDREW WONG, LACHLAN ALLEN, SUSY SOWDEN, LUKE SPYER, and MICHELLE COOPER all had good games. We were also very thankful for the return of DYLAN MCGILL (back from illness) in his centre back and goal kicking role. Our goal-keeper JACK NAYLOR did an excellent job this week saving several goals to keep the opposition scoreless. Well done team!



UNDER 11/5

THORNLEIGH 5 vs NORMANHURST 0

The Thunder Fives continued on their 2007 Magical Mystery Tour this week with a sound thrashing of local rivals Normanhurst. While they put five goals past Normo, this did not truly reflect their absolute dominance. Normo had at least nine players behind the ball all day which made the penalty area quite congested. Best results came from width when we took Normo on down the sidelines and then crossed to the centre. The Fives took a little while to settle to their task but once they did they were all over the opposition like lycra. Our first goal came from an IZAACK corner which floated nicely in to CAMERON's path. He neatly pushed the ball past the goalie. Then ANDRE got on the end of a TOM L pass through the midfield and it was 2-0. Our midfield maestros of WILL and ADRIAN played strongly today and kept up a steady stream of possession. MITCHELL also played intelligently and won all the 50:50 balls. The second half saw the Fives start at a hundred miles an hour and while Normo were still getting the orange bits out of their teeth put on two quick goals. BLAKE and ANDRE played a lovely one-two with ANDRE getting his second for the day. Then BLAKE got on the end of an ANDRE pass for another cleverly constructed goal. Finally TOM L cleaned up after IZAACK's strong shot was parried by the keeper and it was 5-0. Today's revelation was TOM D who was released from centre back and given free rein in midfield. Some of his scampering runs down the right flank were first class with great crosses the final result. Again I do not remember our goalies JAY or HOLLY touching the ball today which is a credit to our dominant flow of possession and the strength of our defence on the rare occasions Normo got their feet near the ball. All in all this was a very good performance as we get near the business end of the season still undefeated. And speaking of good performances the Fives parents also performed strongly at their night out watching COACH BENNY strut his stuff with his band. His chipolata impersonations were very realistic and I was never aware that Abba was headbanging music until I watched BENNY trying hard to headbutt FRED. Everyone had a "T-Bar-Riffic" night with some of the sights of the evening best left under the maxim "what goes on tour stays on tour".

U12/4

THORNLEIGH 5 vs GLADESVILLE SHARKS 1

The temperature at kick off was a chilly 7 degrees but the team was on fire. Thornleigh from the start gave a beautiful display of passing that led to a goal by SAM LANE with just 4 minutes on the clock. Not long after SAM LANE scored again. Towards the end of the second half Gladesville were awarded a penalty against us close to our goal, they took the shot which was unstoppable taking the score to 2-1. In a crowded opposition penalty box JACK ANGEL took a kick which deflected off OLIVER JUDSON to bring our tally to 3. DALE EDWARDS played very well in midfield with some good passing and accurate long kicks. DANIEL CHRISTIE took the score to 4-1 with a superbly taken penalty kick. Our final goal was taken by OLIVER JUDSON off a good pass from JEREMY LEE.

UNDER 12/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH (Blue) 1 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 0

This was an incredibly exciting game, and the Blue Thunderettes were unlucky not to walk away with an absolute swag of goals. The girls were fired up from the start, with GEORGINA, REBEKA, JOEY and KATHERINE all recording near misses in the first half. Our forwards, HANNAH C, JOEY, GEORGINA and JASMINE all combined well, and showed a real keenness to keep the ball in our attacking half. REBEKA had a fabulous game, really pushing hard towards goals, and cleverly exploiting weaknesses in the Rovers' back line. TAYLA was particularly impressive in the midfields, demonstrating lots of especially tricky moves that her mother (Karen) had so ably taught her, and fearlessly tackling some opposing players twice her size. HANNAH T was tireless (as was her father, Andy, who played every step of the game from the sideline), running to the ball, and firing it back to the forward line with some well directed big kicks. The backs were awesome, with RACHEL displaying some outstanding tackling and clearing skills, LYDIA absolutely rock solid in defence, KATHERINE making some big plays and unafraid to push further up the field, and MADDY displaying some impressive tackling, running and kicking skills. There were a few hairy moments during the game, with the Rovers penetrating the defence on three occasions, but fast running by MADDY and RACHEL and quick hands by JAS in the first half and HANNAH C in the second saw us get out of trouble safely. The second half was pretty much all Thornleigh's way, with everyone having a dig at goals, and JOEY sneaking one past the keeper early in the half then having a rather spectacular second goal disallowed just out from full time. The frozen Thunderette cheer squad jumped and clapped their way to warmth, and Coach JAYE was wearing nothing but a big cheesy grin by full time. A big thank you to linesman Jonathon Meikle for his fabulous flag waving. Players of the Match: TAYLA CARTER and JOEY HANBY.

UNDER 14/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs EPPING YMCA 6

This week was arguably the best game the team has played this year. The opposition consisted of 10 confident players and one Beckham and as we only had 10 players for the first 5 minutes 2 quick goals were conceded. The Y were physical players (in many instances overly aggressive) and it was good to see Thornleigh starting to use their weight and in some cases their elbows to challenge for the ball. Unfortunately, on several occasions goals were conceded because the Y hung around the penalty box intercepting the goal kicks and scoring two easy goals, making a total of 4 IMMORAL GOALS. ALISSIA ODDI broke the penalty heebie jeebies by scoring from a penalty. For the reader's benefit, in the last 6 games I have watched, 8 penalties have been taken and missed, except for this one. THORNLEIGH'S MORAL GOAL bonanza started with the first for EMILIE LOWE, who skinned no less than two players by throwing dummies here and there to cross the ball. The second went to SAMMIE TRENAMAN who made an awesome left hand wing run being chased by two players, only missing the goal by feet. GEORGIA DAVIS scored the 3rd MORAL by running the ball up to the penalty box and across the face of the goal. The growing confidence was evident. The Backs also started clearing the ball more frequently and ALISSIA ODDI and JESSICA DRUMMOND commanded the midfield. When you tally the MORAL outcome it was a glorious 4:2 MORAL victory for THORNLEIGH. Drum roll maestro...now for the awards: the Player's Player was won by EMILIE LOWE. The 'Chicken Wing' of God was awarded to SAMMIE TRENAMAN for her unique hand ball style. Today's Team First award goes to coach PETER CONNELLY for giving the socks off his feet for the team. Fantastic game girls when taking everything into account.

UNDER 14/1

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 2

On a beautiful winters morning the mighty Thunder was up against the competition leaders. With chances going both ways Thunder was first to open the account after a terrific through ball from LACHLAN gave LEROY a 1 on 1 against the goalie and our first goal. With West Penno mounting pressure CHRIS S pulled off some good saves and was quick off his line. After some slick passing moves KEL pounced on a high ball to beat 2 defenders and shot our 2nd goal straight past the goalie. We had the comp leaders rattled and Thunder was playing their hearts out. After some sustained pressure West Penno snuck one in to peg back our lead to 2-1 at half time. ANDRE was a great help to us -pity he had to leave at half time to play with his team. Thanks ANDRE for helping us out. The second half was a huge arm wrestle. Great defence from IZAAC, CHRIS G, JARRYD, KEL and LACHIE was frustrating the attack. MITCH, MATT and TIM were a power of strength in midfield and kept passing and working the ball around. PAT and LEROY pounced on every opportunity and were unlucky on a couple of occasions. However another goal from the opposition meant we had to settle for a draw. Great effort against the top team in the comp. Points KEL-3, LACHLAN-2 and LEROY-1.

UNDER 15/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 3 vs ROSELEA 6

A fantastic game by both sides. Roselea is a talented side with excellent finishing ability. The fact that we managed three goals against them was a reflection of the effort given and the never say die attitude of our girls. Big thanks to MEL and ARIELLE for the support and skill they gave to the team today. FIONA was solid in goals with only the difficult shots getting by. ANNALESE bounced back and was excellent in the midfield, well supported by EMMA and CHLOE. Our back once again chased down the attackers and thrilled the crowd with hard tackling. Great to see LUCY I on the side line supporting her team. OLIVIA and MADI were aggressive and determined, frustrating the attack. Good to see our backs coming forward to trap the opposition off side. The goals belonged to MEL finishing with amazing footwork and hard hitting shots. REBECCA played another outstanding game, chasing and driving the ball forward time after time. ELLIE was a late starter but played a smart thinking game. LUCY J was running through and on the spot for any loose ball. DANI and SERANI were enjoying their game, taking it in turns to chase and drive the ball down field. This was a great game, with many positives coming from it. Well done girls.

UNDER 15/2

THORNLEIGH 3 vs REDFIELD 0

On a glorious sunny Saturday, the team had consumed their coffee lattes early. With that out of the way Team Thunder attacked strongly from the onset and had the opposition playing ragged, disjointed but extremely quick counter-attacking football. With JOHN CAVILL between the sticks collecting all sent toward him, he delivered a ball to JOSH ZADRO to sweep down the right for BEN COLAUTTI to 'fly past his markers, deliver a deft pass for the fast moving MATT LOWE to thread the ball to a rampant ALEX HOUSE, for him to sweetly caress the ball past a diving, despairing keeper - a real team goal and a just reward for ALEX. With the opposition tiring from Thornleigh pressure, JON MAUDE was crash tackled 40 metres out and 10 metres in from the sideline giving us a free kick. Step forward NICK GEORGIU and with a glance at the goal and the goalie, lofted a longggggg range curler over the defence and the 'keeper into the top, left corner. Set play of the year. The second half was the most creative, thoughtful and patient display by the team this year bringing a smile to Coach CRAIG DENYER's face. The catalyst for this display was the work of MATT ANTOUN who bamboozled the left side with real attacking football, and continually worked creatively with the zip zip man LACHLAN BEENIE, and on the 55th minute mark, for LACHLAN to pass to MATT A. to drill home our 3rd goal. A call from the side line whilst this passage of play was in mid flight was 'slot it home BEENIE', but LACHLAN astutely took the right option and passed to MATT A. With pressure coming from the left, this left STEVE BORREL on the right to use his skills and combine smoothly with an ever present MEL D'ARCHY to open up that side of the paddock. Having both flanks closed down by Thornleigh, their attack began coming down the middle, falling into the hands (well feet) of BRENT ROGERS who plugged the gap with tactical nous and distributed the ball elegantly to the high octane midfield and hungry forwards. If the team can continue, and all supporters know they can, with this stylish and positive football they can, and will, go all the way.

UNDER 15/4

THORNLEIGH 6 vs REDBACKS 0

A good win leading up to the finals, and with the team on top of table and a bye next week, a premiership is up for grabs in two weeks time. So with Holy Cross only two points behind, a win is needed against Glenhaven in a fortnight to secure the premiership. The game started fairly evenly with BRENDAN MEW being able to bag one goal in the first half courtesy of a penalty. At the break the coach assured the boys that the goals would come if they continued to talk, pass the ball and apply some pressure, so the second half ended with five goals. One to JAMES ELLIOTT and ERIC VLAHOS after some scrambling work in the goals, another couple to HARRY BROWN after some sweeping runs from well out and another from ERIC VLAHOS who shot one past the keeper from the edge of the box. With our usual sweeper out injured the momentous task was given to MICHAEL DENNETT who played an impressive game, mowing down any feral Redback attackers. Special mention to LUKE MESSINA who has been playing with an injury for most of the season, on his performance on Saturday any opponent is going to have trouble getting past this keeper. It was a pleasure to see you moving freely again and confidently organizing the defenders. GAME AWARD POINTS – ALEX GRANT 3, MICHAEL DENNETT 2 and DION MURPHY 1.

AA/5 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 1 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 1

Well! We know it's approaching final time, what a match! Tough all the way. Some relief in the first half when LAURA then ERIN combined to score, so we went to half time 1 up. Both teams threatening each others goal with regularity. ERIN had an amazing game playing around the legs of the much larger Raven forwards but regaining the ball time and again. We had a number of opportunities in both the first and second half but with near miss precision failed to convert the score line. Late in the second half saw the Ravens with a lucky high kick to equal the score and the remainder of the game a struggle from both sides to gain the upper hand. All in all a very tight game, good preparation and indication of the struggle toward the Finals. Generally a great team effort and hard to single out any particular players in this difficult game but as we said a hard fought well done to ERIN (player of the day) and noteworthy performance from KELLI and in the second half, JACKIE in goals.

AA/11

THORNLEIGH 4 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 1

The sideline eye has missed a few games recently (not worth reporting on anyway from all recounts), but managed to put in an appearance for the AA11's second win of the season – and what a magnificent spectacle it was. Taking to the field with just one barely fit reserve, the Thunders were down to just eleven two minutes in when GUTSY GUS had a bit of a run, kicked a ball then declared his hamstring gone and game over – not good news for the injured trio of DANGEROUS DAN, NIMBLE NEIL and COURAGEOUS CRAIG, who were forced to soldier on without respite. But "commando" is probably a better descriptor than "soldier" for the ruthlessness of the Thornleigh players, with no prisoners being taken on the day. Playing with broken fingers and swathes of bandages, MASTERFUL MARK took control early and positively dominated mid-field play, ably supported as always by the tenacity and skill of OMNIPOTENT OWEN and DYNAMIC DAVE. COURAGEOUS CRAIG and DANGEROUS DAN were absolutely solid, running, kicking, and tackling until their injured bodies were numb. CUNNING CAM had yet another outstanding game in the backline making some great tackles and clearing kicks, while PASSIONATE PAUL was brilliant as sweeper, leaving very little for OMAR the AMAZING to do in this game other than clean up an occasional Carlingford stab. Up front, Thornleigh absolutely sizzled. NIMBLE NEIL had never played better, and showed staggering speed and fitness for someone who has been so dogged by injuries this season. PERFECT PETER made some great breaks, and gave the Carlingford forwards a few headaches. But it was NIFTY NICK who was the icing on the cake this game. NIFTY totally bamboozled the Carlingford backline to power home his first goal, before showing unstoppable commitment in carving up the defence to land his second. At 2-0 up, the Thunders had Carlingford on the ropes, and their players began to turn on one another with a verbal ferocity that dredged up unfortunate memories of some rather hideous kindergarten boys trying to find someone else to blame for their latest misdeeds. Undaunted by the puerility, NIFTY raced for yet another well directed ball, leaving poor picked on "James" and "George" (opposition players who

got yelled at a lot by their team mates) in his wake, to cap off his hat-trick. To rub a bit more salt into the wounds, he then magnanimously shared the spoils around when he set up a goal for PERFECT PETE, who potted the ball beautifully into the back of the net. A frustrated Carlingford finally slipped one past OMAR the AMAZING in the dying minutes to try to grab back some pride, but it only fired up the Thunders more, with PASSIONATE PAUL unlucky to have what looked to be a totally spectacular solo goal disallowed with just seconds remaining. All in all, an absolutely fabulous performance from the boys. Looking forward to more of the same next game! Sideline Eye's Player of the Day: NIFTY NICK

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORMANHURST 0

The scene was set for the much anticipated local derby. The players prepared well during the week and despite a last minute change in the line up we were confident of a good showing against Normanhurst. I don't think anybody went away from Oakleigh Oval disappointed with this highly entertaining game. Both teams had chances to secure those three vital points but could not find the back of the net. The referee let the game flow but always kept good control. JAMIE CLENDINING deserves credit for keeping in check Normanhurst's attackers, while DAMIEN SUPLINA ran a marathon in defence and attack. LAYN MELLISH had his best game of the season with many strong runs down the left flank. The only sour note of the afternoon was the state of Oakleigh Oval. The ungrassed baseball mound and pot holes down the northern end made it very dangerous for all players. There is no grass in the northern goal mouth and there were more lines on the oval than in an army parade. I know all codes and the community share the oval but it's about time a football purpose playing and training facility is built in the area. Next Saturday we take on Roselea at Oakleigh Oval. Two points now separate the top six teams, which makes for an interesting final four rounds. Thanks for the great crowd support from junior and senior Thunder players and the local community.

Coach's Best & Fairest points: LAYN MELLISH 3, DAMIEN SUPLINA/TRISTAN TULLOCH 2 AND JAMIE CLENDINING/STEPHEN LANSLEY 1.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORMANHURST 3

This was a must win game for our young guns with three other teams breathing down our neck for 4th spot. Thunder looked good when the ball was spread to our flanks but too often not enough players were in the box to capitalize on the crosses. As it happens so often Normanhurst scored in the 44th minute of the first half. Thunder played better in the second half and were unlucky not to get that vital goal back. Normanhurst scored their second goal mid way through the second half and another 10 minutes before full time. MARCUS BINGEMANN deserves praise for an excellent game despite suffering a badly cut nose from a wayward Normanhurst boot. ANDREW GAMBLE in attack and ANDREW ZVIRBLIS and STEPHEN LEE in defence played strongly for Thunder.

Coach's Best & Fairest points were: MARCUS BINGEMANN 3, ANDREW GAMBLE 2 AND ANDREW ZVIRBLIS 1.

AA / 19

THORNLEIGH 0 vs EPPING YMCA 2

This was a disappointing result for our AA young guns as we played the team that was battling with us for second place, however we have no excuses as we were beaten by a better side on the day. Epping came out on fire and beat us to the ball all over the park and played a very physical game which put us off our normal passing game. We looked ordinary for the first 15 minutes and a long afternoon beckoned. Our boys however dug deep and started to turn things around and apply pressure as our game started to flow and the passes found Thornleigh feet. We almost scored soon after as a throw-in from CHRIS found the head of a flying MARC who slotted it home only to have the ref call it back for a re throw as he blew the whistle as the ball sailed through the air for a stoppage as an Epping player limped off the field with an injury. The player was no where near the action so we don't know why the ref stopped the game half way through a throw, but that is football. We went into half time one down after a very good goal from Epping who turned our marker and had a snap shot from 20 metres out that scorched past our keeper, even we applauded the shot. After the break the game settled into an arm wrestle as we continually probed the YMCA defence but they always had the answer as they pulled back defenders to keep us at bay and counter attacked with amazing speed. This was a good half for us as we started to dominate the bigger Epping players and we were very unlucky not to put a couple away as we continually put ourselves into a position to score only to see the final result saved by either good defending or goal keeping. Epping's second goal came from a smart local decision to run into the sun in the first half which put it directly in our faces for the second half and as it lowered it caused our keeper PETER all sorts of trouble trying to see the ball in flight. YMCA crossed it into the box and our keeper and defenders lost sight of it in the sun for a fairly simple goal to Epping. All in all we put in a strong team effort but were not quite good enough on the day. Our team today was keeper, PETER, backs LIAM, EDDY and MATT. Mids were TERENCE, ANDREW, PAUL, DAVE, JORDAN, CHRIS and HAYDEN who ran his heart out and had possibly his best game this year. Up front MARC, NICK, ROLY and NATHAN all tried to score that elusive goal. Well done boys your efforts were appreciated and we look forward to next week to get back into the winning way .