



**Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.**

# SOCCKER DIVISION

## Blue & Gold Newsletter



**4-5 August 2007**

**Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm**

**Email to [kedrummond@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kedrummond@optusnet.com.au)**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



With the results in for the weekend, I would have to say that we are on target for a great end to the 2007 season. Congratulations to all our teams for great performances over the entire season. Win, lose or draw we are proud of your efforts and your untiring commitment to do better.

As expected, the Club came through with flying colours for our Under Seven Gala Day on Sunday. The elves were busy Saturday evening lining out the fields, although some of the lines may have looked a little shaky, we put this down to the declining temperature. As dawn broke, the next morning started with a flurry of activity. A small army of volunteers worked with precision as goals, equipment and signage were erected, coffee perking, sausages sizzling and a final briefing prepared. Given the high degree of planning and preparation, it was no surprise that the day ran flawlessly. Further improvement is just not possible.

The day finished with a thrilling finals match between Normanhurst and Glenhaven. Both teams competed to the maximum as they summoned their final reserves of energy for extra time. Unfortunately with both teams deadlocked, the game was decided on a count back to goal kicks where Glenhaven narrowly edged out Normanhurst to claim the title of Fund Day Champions. However, the other Normanhurst team was able to nudge out West Ryde Rovers in the Pennant Round. Congratulations to all four teams for their contribution to a very successful day. Really, nobody does it better.

Thank you to all those who worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to Sunday and on Sunday. Peter Krisenthal, Craig D, Graeme T, Neil (Nigel), Martin D, Craig M, Bruce E, Jackie K, the hooter girl, and the cast of thousands who lent a hand. Special mention also goes to, Tim Hill, the sausage boy who with others kept the sausages sizzling, and the 15/2 boys, Mitchell S (14/1), Steve G (man in black) who along with our O/35s refereed to a Premier League standard. Finally, thank you to the Thornleigh players, coaches, managers and parents who once again did the club proud.

Final words, don't forget this Saturday at Oakleigh Oval for the titanic struggle for the final four spots for the Premier League. Our boys are hanging onto third spot but will be relying on your support to push them through to the semi-finals. Make all efforts to be there in your blue and gold!

Yours in commitment,

**Rob Roberts**

## RESULTS

### GHFA Competition - 4.8.2007

Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/2	Gladesville Ravens	3	2
U9/4	Pacific Hills Dural	0	9
U9/7	BYE		
U10/3	Pennant Hills	2	1
U11/5	Epping Eastwood	4	1
U12/4	North Ryde	3	1
U13/4	Gladesville Ravens	2	3
U14/1	Holy Cross College	3	1
U14/4	West Pennant Hills	2	0
U15/2	Putney	3	1
U15/4	Glenhaven	0	0
AA/2	Gladesville Sharks	7	2
AA/6	Pennant Hills	0	0
AA/9	Macquarie Combined	3	1
AA/11	Kenthurst	4	1
AA/17	Macquarie	3	1
AA/19	Epping YMCA	2	1
O35/2	North Ryde	1	2
O35/5	Glenhaven	3	1
PL/Res	West Pennant Hills	0	0
PL/1st	West Pennant Hills	4	2

### NWSWS Competition - 5.8.2007

Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U12/7	Thornleigh Div 8	2	0
U12/8	Thornleigh Div 7	0	2
U14/4	Kenthurst	1	1
U15/1	Pennant Hills	2	0
U15/2	Withdrawn		
AA/5	Flying Bats	6	0
AA/9	Sydney Uni	5	0
AA/10	Gladesville Sharks	0	2



# 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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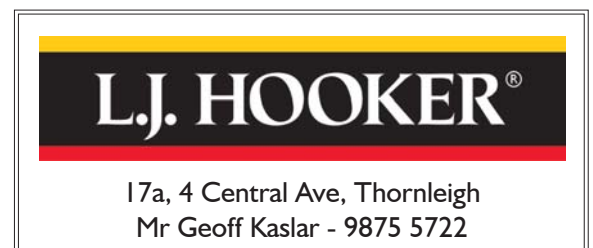


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# UNDER 6 EMUS



## THORNLEIGH 2 vs MACQUARIE DRAGONS 3

Had this been the last game of the season as planned, it would have been a fitting finale despite the scoreline. Perhaps the players were aware the ride is almost over for this season, or perhaps it all just clicked, but almost every player had one of their best individual performances. The first half saw AIMEE in goals who kept the first cleansheet ever for the Emus. A super goalkeeping effort especially as she had to change shirts mid-game and still didn't miss a beat! As always SAM and ISAAC were able to get possession of the ball from the opposition and then turn this into long running attack raids. But early on their efforts were all just missing the target or being saved. The Dragons proved an even match for them and this allowed a lot of the Emus lesser lights to get more involved than other weeks. TAJ was able to get several good possessions and even make a run downfield, his longest of the season by far. He reached the attacking third where SAM took over and tried once more to score a goal. But the Dragon defence was holding fast and they headed back upfield where they found the defence just as resolute. They could not find a way past the trickery of JONATHAN who was waiting for them everytime and able to disarm all attacks with a casual back-heel. The end to end action was great to watch but a gamebreaker was needed and the Emus had a returning weapon called TYRESE..... the running man was back from an injury layoff and raring to go. Within seconds of being introduced he had the ball, the crowd held their breath to see which way he would run, it was never in doubt though, it would be the wrong way..... he quickly corrected his course and made for the right end! Unstoppable once again in any direction, TYRESE continued to take run after run towards the goals hoping for a goal after such a long wait. But it would not come. Anytime the action became a swarm the Emu pack-breaker BLAKE was getting right in there, making a lot of tackles and gaining some good distance on his kicks out of the packs. JOSHUA jumped into the action and followed his teammates lead by making runs with the ball as well as providing his now trademark large kicks. The second half saw ISAAC in goals who worked tirelessly saving goals even throwing himself onto the ball in a gallant display of ensuring no goals were made easily. But despite all his efforts, quick play from the Dragons saw one goal pass him but this would serve to spur on the Emus. SAM and JONATHON were the first to try and score one for the Emus. AMIEE came onto the field and was having a lot of space to run in, she was dribbling it well and just missed on her first attempt but there would be more to come. She was quick to seize possession and with long strides went close to goal, where goal scoring machine SAM was able to stretch out and with a huge kick made it 1 all. The Emus had a taste now and were making all the attack, wave after wave would go for goal, TYRESE coming close on many occasions with the final kick just not going into the goals. JONATHAN and JOSHUA were everywhere making attack runs then getting back to defend as well. However as the Emus pressed hard in attack the Dragons tried to fast brea. Luckily for the team JORDAN had sensed the danger of committing everybody forward and he was hanging back a bit. The ball was past him into the defensive end, but this was not any ordinary day, JORDAN took off after it and ran it down before the Dragons' attackers could get there. He

kicked the ball out to the wings and safety, saving the bacon of his attack minded mates. All this end to end was taking its toll on the team who were tiring fast, and they were unable to prevent a fast break by the Dragons who scored a second goal. Sensing the tired legs they came again, only to be repelled by the attacking goalie ISAAC who even dared to run the ball out of the goal area allowing his team a breather while he took the load. In a day where the final kick would prove the difference between two evenly matched teams, the Dragons got one more following many more close calls for the Emus. The final player of the week award was given to TYRESE for a successful return to action following his broken collarbone.

# UNDER 6 MAGPIES



## THORNLEIGH 1 vs ALL SAINTS HUNTERS HILL 5

The game against All Saints Hunters Hill was another exciting one, with the boys really putting in a great effort but unfortunately going down 5 goals to 1. It was a great defensive effort by all players with MORGAN HUGHES and BRADLEY HOWARD playing really well in goal and making some impressive and brave saves. They were assisted in defence by JORDAN-LEE BACON, JOSHUA BENNETT, JARRET WILSON and EDWARD JIANG. We had limited scoring opportunities but this didn't stop OLIVER DEWEY and LUCIAN CHAMPION making some telling runs. Our only reward went to DANIAL PATTERSON who played well all game. Thunder really did play well against a more experienced team and really showed spirit and never gave up. Well done boys, we're all proud of you.

# UNDER 6 PLATYPUS



## MATCH REPORT

Congratulations to LACHLAN who played his best game of the season and deservedly was PLAYER OF THE WEEK. He had an energetic game being in the action the whole match, wowing us with a magnificent run down the field towards goal. BRYNN also had one of her best games with a number of impressive tackles. OLIVER was great in defence this week, putting his body between the ball and the goal mouth. LUKE had a great first half in goals showing us again his safe hands against a skilled team. ETHAN worked hard in attack but was unlucky this week. THEA impressed with smart throw-ins and positioning for free kicks. Despite being unwell, MATT played his usual solid and reliable defensive game. The team did really well against an opposition who at the beginning of the season completely dominated. What fantastic work and effort Platypus.

# UNDER 7 EMUS



## THORNLEIGH 1 vs RYDE PANTHERS 2

After a long brisk walk to get to the field the boys were already warmed up and rearing to go. With the whistle just blown we were blown away with the stunning curved ball that the opposition shot right into the goal, LEWIS had no chance to grab it. We all thought here we go again but the boys lifted their heads and got on with it. LEWIS was kept busy and made some extremely great saves. WILLIAM made some great throw ins and was great defending the other team, NIKOLAS made a couple of breakaway runs and LIAM was a great allrounder. DANIEL after some stylish footwork and great tackling surprised himself and us when he kicked the ball softly and it dribbled into the goal to make it one all and an exciting game. MATTHEW threw some great throw ins and made a couple of brilliant runs storming up the centre and nearly scoring a couple of times. With LEWIS back out on the field and playing his usual fast paced game he was unlucky a couple of times when the ball hit the goal post keeping all the spectators on our toes. ETHAN took up the position of goal keeper in the second half and was unlucky when the last and final goal of the game was scored. Player of the match was DANIEL for his usual enthusiasm and great ball skills.

# UNDER 7 KANGAROOS



## THORNLEIGH 4 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 2

Another win, bravo team! Everyone contributed to this rewarding victory playing their hearts out. CONOR DRUMM, CYRENA BOURIS and HANNAH SEPARVICH all scored goals, with this being HANNAH's first for the season. Once again JACK FERGUSON and JAMIE WATSON provided solid defence with both getting in there and tackling for possession of the ball. EDWARD SIMCOCK again demonstrated his goal keeping skills, diving for the ball at every turn with DANIEL MALLET providing some great clearing kicks never giving the opposition a chance to dominate. Well done team.



# UNDER 7 KOALAS

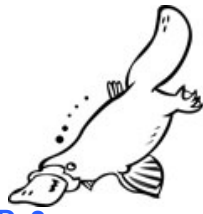


## MATCH REPORT

Well we have had two days of great soccer from the boy's. Saturday's game saw us competing against a well drilled Kenthurst team who played a tough and physical game. HUGH FRASER got Man of the Match for playing an all round fantastic game, covering the field well and leading by example with some brilliant tackling and attacks up the wing. BRAIDEN WOLHOFF played a solid game in goals saving a number of points and delivering some fine goal clearing shots. KIEREN KIRK had a strong game, with some dynamic tackling and passing. JOSH WATKINS chimed in with his usual goal scoring prowess even though he was targeted and heavily marked during the game. ROHAN MAXWELL covered much of the ground chasing down the ball with some good defence play. JAMES IRISH, ALEX MURRIE and TRISTAN DOWNEY all played solid games and came back well after all three suffering some fairly heavy blows during the game amongst others in the team.

On Sunday the boys played well in what was a long day of soccer, several of the boys backing up from a hard week of sport and carrying colds. Needless to say the boys were quite fatigued by the end of the game, especially playing on such a fast surface. They were well disciplined and a great team to be with on the day. We played in quite a strong draw and were unlucky not to do better, however the skills of one player from the Kellyville Colts dashed our hopes who we played twice. The team played a brilliant defensive game with great goal keeping from KIEREN, ALEX, JAMES and BRAIDEN, and goals to JOSH WATKINS and BRAIDEN WOLHOFF (please forgive me if I missed someone... I cannot remember). ROHAN MAXWELL showed his speed playing some fantastic defensive and attacking roles with excellent throw in capabilities with some big throws especially in the final match of the day. BRAIDEN WOLHOFF played well in goal as well as some brilliant attacking runs in forward play, his kicks from goal proved to be one of the day's highlights. TRISTAN DOWNEY played a great defensive game with some excellent chasing, passing and forward attacking play even though playing with a heavy cold. JOSH WATKINS did well in attack scoring some goals while in later games becoming a leading defensive player, and along with HUGH, showed great stamina with little time off. ALEX MURRIE played a stirring stint as goalkeeper and played some dynamic attacking play. KIEREN KIRK played great all day with a outstanding performance in the last game covering the field with standout tackling and ball chasing, after what has been an exhausting three days of soccer for him. HUGH FRASER put in some speedy runs from the back getting the ball back into attacking play and was the foundation of a lot of our defence. As always JAMES IRISH played excellent in goals, which is becoming his specialty and delivered some top attacking play with some great down field breaks and passing.

# UNDER 7 PLATYPUS



THORNLEIGH 1 VS SAINTS UNITED 2

The Saint's certainly went marching in as they came to play the mighty Platypus on Saturday. Like usual there was a lot of character and courage on show as the monotremes played in a secure manner in the first half. OLIVER GORDON continued to show great improvement as he took on the opposition and tackled with vigor. Similarly, DANIEL MERRICK showed that mighty fighting spirit as he ran and chased the Saints from the canteen to the baseball mound! As the first half developed there was some champagne football and like usual, the supporters were not left wanting as Thunder left no blade of grass untouched. BRENDEN MUDALIAR continued to be a threat with some simply superb passes while RHORDAN 'THE AXE' STEPHENS showed his trademark tenacity and skill with some great reading of play and clearance kicks. At halftime, the score line was 0-0 and there wasn't an inch in it. Soon after the second half whistle shrilled, the combination of a great pass by QUINN CAMPBELL and then a 'top shelf' finish by ROBBIE BRADLEY left the Saints trying to learn a new march and within a few minutes they managed to claw one back after they snatched a pass heading back towards the Thunder line. JOSH DE SILVA continued to chase them down with his usual 'marathon' like effort and was unlucky not to put the Platypus ahead again as he had several attempts on goal. As the clock ticked down Platypus kept on fighting tooth and nail while CODY JERVIS kept his battery on full charge with the aggression of a bull after a red rag! As time ticked away we continued to display the great passing and marking that has been developing at training, but unfortunately the Platypus were unlucky to concede a goal off another pass back towards the posts with only a minute left on the 'egg timer'. 1-2. Although the boys were on the end of a hard fought battle this week, they learned a lot about themselves and were terrific ambassadors for the 'world game'. For wonderful efforts in goals and great play on the park, RHORDAN STEPHENS and BRENDEN MUDALIAR had a dead heat for PLAYER OF THE WEEK. The boys then backed up to display wonderful heart and passion on the Gala Day on Sunday and although they had some meteoric matches in the pool games against some players who were worthy of A-League contracts, they never gave up. The sheer joy and elation of the boys and the parents as they finally won their game against Epping Emus in the first elimination match will long be remembered! Albeit a hard day, it was great day and the boys will have certainly slept well on Sunday night. See you next week for the last match of 2007, in what has been a fantastic year for the whole team.



# UNDER 7 WALLABY



THORNLEIGH 4 vs BEECROFT 1

It was a late start on a sunny yet biting cold morning while we waited for Beecroft to gather their team together. In the first half TIM REYNOLDS kindly helped them to make up their numbers with everyone eager to get moving. The match began at a fast pace with ROWAN WOOD taking command of the ball and passing it skilfully to LACHLAN HARRIS who then took control and made a fantastic goal attempt. It didn't take long for ROWAN to make good this attempt scoring our 1st goal. ALEXANDER WALSH, NICHOLAS WENSLEY and JAMES WOOD all tackled, defended and rallied well throughout the match. Our first half goalkeeper, MATTHEW BUTLER, did a terrific job fending off the opposition's goal attempts letting only one pass him in this half. MATTHEW fought back early in the second half with an exciting attempt at goal in his stunningly determined style. LACHLAN HARRIS decided it was his turn to score with a brilliant 2nd goal for the Thunders. LACHLAN was clearly in great form despite his ailments demonstrating some great moves and fancy footwork. Next it was MATTHEW's turn to score taking us to a 3-1 lead. Our 2nd half goalkeeper, NICHOLAS WENSLEY, did a sterling job preventing Beecroft from scoring a single goal in the half. Just in the last few minutes, there was great excitement as JAMES WOOD kicked a fabulous goal earning him Player of the Week. Another great effort by the Thornleigh Wallabies!

# UNDER 8 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 1 vs MACQUARIE DRAGONS 2

In a first half that was played largely at each end rather than in the middle of the field, the Whites were unlucky to remain scoreless. At the whistle the Whites were on the attack, with MARCUS YUEN and CAMERON CHOI forging ahead, displaying good teamwork backed up by a determined midfield made up of ZOE MATHIOUDAKIS, BIANCA TOOHEY and ELLY RICKWOOD who made every effort to retain possession and really kept the ball moving. JAYDEN PAK was very unlucky to not score close to the end of the first half, having taken an opportunity expertly set up by his fellow players. At the other end the team's defence held up well; JEMMA CAMPBELL-PARRY, ADAM WALKER and JORDAN VAN WYK were instrumental in maintaining a solid wall of defence, ably assisted by NICHOLAS BASSETT's goalkeeping. The action at each end continued in the second half, with the Whites huge kicks the feature of this half one of which was taken up by VEERAN MUDALIAR and resulted in the team's only goal of the match. The kicking efforts of NICHOLAS ROSE, JOSH BATCHHELDER and ANDREW WADDELL stand out but the half-field gained by VEERAN's enormous pass to MARCUS YUEN was the highlight. MARCUS was so unlucky to not score (close though!). Three other goal opportunities were set up but with out the success that the team rightly deserved. JEMMA CAMPBELL-PARRY'S Player of the Week award was well-earned; throughout the entire match, her perseverance in defence and accurate throw-ins made her a deserving recipient of the trophy.

## UNDER 9/4

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs PACIFIC HILLS DURAL 7

This was another tough game, and with no reserves and some kids on the field suffering from a big night at the football the night before, the Thunders all had to dig deep. The first half saw good goal keeping from CALLUM and solid defence from JACK S, JONATHON, JULIAN, ALEX B and THOMAS constantly thwart the opposition, and we went in at half time just 2 nil down. HARRISON made some beautiful attacking runs in the first half, and probably played his best game of the season, while MILES had the crowd on their feet several times as he and CARLY made some forays down the field. The second half was a different ball game, with Pacific Hills really turning up the pressure. CARLY and JACK T both stepped in as goalie, but often found themselves fairly defenceless, and having to go one on three with the opposition forwards. JONATHON and JACK S made some exciting breaks from the forward line, while ISABEL, JACK T, ALEX B and CARLY made some great tackles. At the end of the day, it was the best result we've had against this team this season. Player of the Match: JONATHON MEIKLE

## UNDER 11/5

### THORNLEIGH 4 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 1

This game showed that the Thunder Fives have not only skill but also guts. For the first time all season they went down a goal yet came home all over the opposition. The first half was as tight as a miser's purse strings with neither team giving an inch. It was proper semi final football. The highlight of the first half, and indeed the whole game, was the effort put in by HOLLY. She had her best game in Thunder colours by a country mile. She chased, she hassled, she won the ball, she laid off great passes to her team mates and most importantly she never gave up. Inspirational stuff which lifted the whole team. After a goal mouth scramble we went down a goal and the Thunders were being frustrated by a packed Epping Eastwood defence. Once they got ahead they put all their players behind the ball. The penalty area was fuller than an election year pork barrel. Half time saw stand in coach ROSS give a " we will fight them on the beaches.....but we will never surrender" inspirational talk which lifted the team and the second half was vintage Thunder Fives stuff. Soon after the re-start TOM L found rare space in the box and smacked away the equalizer. ADRIAN had a shot from a mile out that was not too far away then IZAACK put us ahead with a cracker of a left foot shot from outside the box which took a slight deflection en route to the back of the net. Once The Fives went ahead there was no respite for the opposition. We were all over them like late afternoon sunshine. CAMERON made a couple of weaving runs and then got on the end of a great IZAACK cross for the third goal. Then ANDRE went for a trademark teasing run and sent over a pin point cross to JULIAN who nearly knocked the back out of the net with a powerful shot. Four-one and game over. A point next week against Epping YMCA should see the Fives through to the Grand Final and that is as it should be after a dominant season. Well played kids.

## UNDER 12/1 GIRLS

### THORNLEIGH (BLUE) 0 vs THORNLEIGH (GOLD) 2

This was the local derby, and it was a close, hard fought game. The first 5 minutes was spent with the ball pretty much locked on the half way line as the girls tried to muscle it past one another. There were players dropping like flies, with the minis – TAYLA on the blue team and KIRRA on the gold team both coming off second best in tackles against the taller players – but they soldiered on like the troopers they are. From the perspective of the blue Thunderettes, they just couldn't string it together today, while the gold Thunderettes were really keen and constantly raced to be first to the ball. The first half was a bit of a shambles, with positional play really not featuring strongly, but the gold team ultimately made a break via LAURA M and were able to capitalise. In the second half, the blue team dominated the attack but were unable to squeeze any of the multitude of opportunities past the golden backs and the safe hands of MADDY G. A late break by ELISE for the gold team caught the blue backs out of position and they managed to pop in another. Blue again fought back valiantly, but they were just unable to produce the big finishes around the goals we have seen in recent weeks. Blue Players of the Match: BECK F and SAVANNAH B; reporters choice for Gold Player of the Match (without actually consulting anyone from the gold team): MADDY G for great mid-field work in the first half and amazing saves in the second.



## U12/4

### THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORTH RYDE 1

Last time we played North Ryde the score was 1-1, so we knew it was to be a tough game. Both teams played tenaciously for the first 20 minutes, and then JEREMY LEE made the breakthrough. He took a big kick a long way from the North Ryde goal mouth and at an angle, the ball bounced past their goalie and off the side post into the goal. Two minutes later SAM LANE took the score to 2-0 off a long run and a good kick. Four minutes into the second JACK ANGEL made an excellent pass to SAM LANE who popped it in to take the score to 3-0. After this 3rd goal both teams bunched up for about 10 minutes and the game was a little scrappy. Then North Ryde scored an unstoppable goal to put them on the scoreboard. North Ryde was starting to look dangerous as they stepped up a gear. We spent most of the rest of the game defending except for some remarkable attacking runs from JACK ANGEL and SAM LANE. FERGUS BARRY-CORDEROY was sturdy in defence as always and DALE EDWARDS displayed some fancy footwork in the second half.

# UNDER 14/1 GIRLS

## THORNLEIGH 1 vs KENTHURST 1

A huge thankyou for the acting coaches this week - CHRIS LOWE and MALCOLM DRUMMOND as PETE and TERRY were playing their own game. As background Kenthurst and Thornleigh were equal on points but Kenthurst beat Thornleigh 4:1 in their competition game. Now for the game, the first half was a tight but exciting 30 minutes where the ball was driven from one end to the other making for some really interesting soccer. Several MORAL GOALS were awarded to TAYLAH MOSS and GEORGIA DAVIS for some shots across the face of the goals. SAMMIE TRENAMAN was very effective in goals saving several shots. The second half was a different game all together. Both teams struggled to keep the frenetic pace and were tiring. One side would dominate for a time and then vice versa. Eventually the deadlock was broken after Kenthurst had a sustained period of attacking where a well kicked lob over the goal keeper made it nil one in Kenthurst's favour. Thornleigh was devastated, and you could see the heads and shoulders drop with only minutes to go. With a fair amount of spectator encouragement Thornleigh lifted their spirits and came out attacking. Within minutes GEORGIA DAVIS equalised to a tremendous roar from the crowd. Now for the slow motion replay..... It started with TAYLAH MOSS passing out of a crowded left wing to SAMMIE TRENAMAN who made a quick pass to TESS SANT who was positioned outside the box dead centre. She controlled the ball and passed to GEORGIA who shot the ball around a full back and the goalie. It couldn't have ended any other way. Every girl played their part, fighting for the ball and clearing out of harms way. We saw some the "never give up" defensive work from SHANNON POTTER and TESS SANT chasing down the opposition. Drum roll maestro...now for the awards: the Player's Player was unanimously won by GEORGIA DAVIS. The Clayton's "I'm in control Award" goes to CHRIS LOWE and MALCOLM DRUMMOND for their herding cats impersonation as acting coaches. A fantastic end to the season. Congratulations girls.



# UNDER 14/4

## THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

Another 8.15am start, another chilly morning for the band of parents to drag their siblings out of bed and another terrific match! The boys were on fire! From the first second they looked like a team driven to win. With their coach, Pip, safely tucked in bed sipping his hot lemon drink the team did him proud. Special thanks to Sanjeev for filling in as coach for the match – he obviously did a fantastic job. The key to the match was the great passing of the ball throughout the game by the whole team. It also helped that the players were able to ignore the rantings of one of the West P Hills CherryBrook parents, known to the onlookers as the "bag lady", who circled the field the whole match yelling negative comments at the "reds" for their poor performance....positive comments would surely have been of more assistance. Only ten minutes into the match TOM B. set up JOSH P with a beautiful pass which JOSH P skillfully chipped over the goalie's head and into the net for our first goal much to the excitement of Warwick our linesman and all the Thornleigh supporters on the sideline. This was quickly followed by JOSH P passing to SAAMID who slotted a left booted beautiful goal into the nets. Zac just arrived in time to witness the goal and join in the jubilation. Score 2 –0 at half time. Now all that was needed was to keep the score that way. The defence held strong with good defence by TOM B., ALEX, SCOTT, DANYON and stylish defence by BRADLEY. JOSH G in goals made a number of excellent saves, including tipping the ball over the crossbar to keep the team in the winning seat. Not satisfied with two goals Thornleigh continued with persistent attacking by NATHAN, TOM D., KHAN and LEE and good passing by AARON and JOSH P. It was an excellent game to watch with Thornleigh consistently first to the ball. If they play with the same confidence next week the team have a good chance to make the finals. Players of the match JOSH PEARSON, SCOTT JOHNSTON and AARON MUDALIAR.

# UNDER 15/1 GIRLS

## THORNLEIGH 2 VS PENNANT HILLS 0

Finishing 5th on the table meant that our girls moved into the Pennant Competition this weekend. We played Pennant Hills and were expecting a tough, tight match as has been the case in our previous meetings. We were pleased to start the game with 11 players on the field. With no reserves we knew an early goal or two would help our cause. ANNALESE did not let us down with a magnificent strike that had a message that we meant business. Oddly, Pennant Hills kept their best players on the sideline hoping to bring them on fresh. By the time they came on the damage had been done. LUCY J, who always goes looking for opportunities, found the net to give us a 2-0 lead. When Pennant Hills settled into the game, our girls lifted and we witnessed one of their best team games this season. Each girl gave something special and combined with each other to dominate the opposition and entertain the supporters. On a number of occasions you could have called it the LUCY IRWIN SHOW. She was dynamic, courageous and unstoppable. FIONA continued to demonstrate why she is the best goalie in the competition. She reads the game so well and seems to be getting more and more distance with her kicks each week. Amazing! The IRON CURTAIN across the back line of

REBECCA, DANI, RANI and ELLIE, frustrated the opposition as they stopped, turned and drove the play back up field. These girls were responsible for keeping the opposition scoreless. The mid-field players were totally involved, finding time and directing play at will. MADI, CHLOE, EMMA and as already mentioned SUPER LUCY, covered and protected mid-pitch and very little structure was evident for Pennant Hills. ANNALESE and LUCY J didn't stop moving and the opposition was mostly occupied with trying to shut down these talented forwards. We were kept scoreless in the second half due to Pennant hill having to keep defenders and midfield players back in the box to keep us out. We had some great shots and attempts that did not find the mark because of the crowd around the goal. This did not mean the game was boring, infact, our girls played wonderful, clever and positive football. CHLOE went off injured but courageously returned in the second half to play a leading role in our win. MADI left late in the second half after she had dominated the play and put the opposition out of the match. This was an outstanding team effort. Well done team!

## UNDER 15/2

### THORNLEIGH 3 vs PUTNEY 1

NEWS FLASH!!!!!!! Well PUT-NEY!!!!!! What a game..... The drought is over as the young guns of Thunder have broken the curse of Putney defeat. We hit the field perfectly toned and tanked after our fitness workout with ERIC at PCYC. All of a sudden, the Thunder troops looked as though they had slipped into U6 jerseys as it was clear that some serious BULKING UP had happened during the later part of the week. Poor coach Craig honestly wasn't feeling confident of victory..... why?? not because he doubted the team.... oh no! but because Jo Rogers had come to watch her baby BRENT play. Adding to the pressure was KIRSTEN, MEL and a friend (who's name escapes me!) but fear not focused followers as the exorcism of evil spirits has worked and have been replaced with good karma. Our squad was still heavily depleted with JOHN and WAZ still out. We were also without STEVIE who was at the ROLL IN THE GRASS HIPPIY CONCERT probably out near GLENORIE or somewhere far away like that. I must say that MEL is a star when it comes to goal keeping. She is a dead set natural between the sticks (thanks MEL). NICK, ALEX, BRENT and RYAN had another reliable and dependable game in defence running a very tight ship. Midfield with MAUDSEY, JOSHUA, DAGS, ANTOUN and BIG BAD BEN latched on to their opponents like pit bull terriers!!! The strikers were also strong today with BEENS means???? and WAGGLE FISH SLAPS LOOOOWE doing a tremendous job. Our numbers were boosted with the added talent of MITCHY SMITH and BANGER from the 14/1s (thanks guys). One semi down with one to go against West Penno. We'll knock them on the head and secure our pozzie in the CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL!!!! Well done all..... keep the level up and stay focused. Not long to go now. I'm proud of you all!!!! Oh by the way, goals scored by CAPTAIN BRENT, WAGGLES and BBBEENIE.



## UNDER 15/4

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs GLENHAVEN 0

Due to the wash out round last week, we played Glenhaven in successive games; last game of the comp and first game in the round robin. Thankfully, after losing to Glenhaven last week (and almost missing out on being minor premiers) we were able to keep both score sheets clean. We were clearly the superior side this time but unable to convert our many chances. With the weather warming, a large crowd turned out and was ready to cheer along the Minor premiers. The match began at a quick pace and never slowed at all. Unlike last week, the boys were focused and most of the play for both halves was situated in the opposition half and pressuring the Glenhaven defence. Their goalkeeper, who saved so many chances last week, was also instrumental in keeping the scores to nil. This is not to say that the Thunder keeper LUKE MESSINA was not busy. He made several fines saves. The key today was the ability of all the team to turn quickly from defensive to creating opportunities up the field. PETER CHRISTIE as usual put his body on the line. MICHAEL DENNETT, who made some great attacking runs from defense, often just after running an opponent down & winning the ball. All were ably supported by DION MURPHY and MATTHEW SMITH. I lost count of the clearing kicks from BRENDAN MEW and JAMES FOWLER, always in the right position. The ball reached an invigorated frontline, with JORDAN SANT and HARRY BROWN passing and pushing forward at every opportunity. They were reinforced by great work from JACKSON SMITH and JAMES ELLIOTT. The support and interaction from the midfielders was the best I have seen this year. This is the sort of play that sets the hearts of spectators racing. Today we were almost as exhausted as the boys. The result reflects the high standard of play from both sides, but the return from illness of JOHN CHRISTIE & a full strength BRENDAN DELLER next week will be welcomed.

## AA /5 WOMENS

### THORNLEIGH 6 vs FLYING BATS 0

Well! What a field day! A genuine all round effort to crush the opposition. A goal scoring frenzy saw AMY D with a hat trick, MEL with 2, JACKIE 1 and many close attempts from LAURA and AMY K. We welcomed AMY and JESS back in style. Assistance was given by the mids; LEE, JACKIE, JESS, ALYCE and MADDIE as an abundance of fabulous through balls were put over for our forwards. Our backs were tireless - ANDREA, KATE, LYDIA, ADELAIDE, KELLI, TONI and RHIAN played with strength and all contributed to the lack of goals for the opposition. A great header from TONI showing how far she has come along this season. Wonderful goal keeping by MEL and RHIAN kept the Bats scoreless, desperate and aggressive. Fantastic play by all. You should all be very proud!!

## AA / 6

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs PENNANT HILLS 0

After beating them 3-1 in a literally bruising encounter last week confidence was high for a good result in our first semi-final against local rivals Pennant Hills. Despite a few sore heads from a certain goal-keeper's wedding the night before (and one still from last weekend's match) it would be fair to say that we dominated the game having the lions share of possession and creating many more chances than our opposition. We just couldn't get that last, golden touch of the ball touching the back of the net. We did have a slightly shaky start, possibly from those with hangovers rushing things and trying to over-compensate for their state of mind but we soon regained our composure and began to dominate the midfield and take control of the match. We were doing everything right and getting to a majority of those pesky 50/50 balls first. We just couldn't convert the chances we were creating. After a positive half-time chat the second half went much the way of the first although we were getting much closer to scoring. ROSS EDWARDS firing a comet j-u-s-t over the bar before TIMI-GOAL was denied by a freakish palm from the Pennant Hills keeper, not once but twice. I can see why their keeper wears big pants because he was pulling those saves from somewhere... Our very own keeper MARK DENNIS also pulled off a brilliant save to keep us in the game later on, proving marriage has not sullied him, yet. So at the full time it was eggs all round as neither side would have managed to trouble the scoreboard if there was one there which there wasn't. Not the result we wanted as this was seen as our first and potentially on paper, easier semi-final and a win was what we wanted and expected. But the result was not for want of trying. Everyone put in 1000% (that's not a typo) with stand out performances all over the pitch especially from JAMES RODGER and BENTON JOHNSON at the back, putting their bodies on the line as well as ANDREW'S WAGG and LISCOE. The returning DAVE POWER ignoring medical advice and risking his knee for glory in midfield as well as middle of the park stalwarts BRAD RUSTON, RICHARD HULAWATYI, MURRAY GRAVES and SIMON WATERHOUSE who once again sadly but nonetheless heroically was forced off the field with another ankle injury. And of course AARON BOOTH ably assisting TIMI-GOAL up front. Thanks to the other result next week's semi is a do or die clash. We HAVE to win. A draw won't do. It's a big ask to turn it around in only 6 days but I think if we could open our chest cavities and see our blue and gold striped hearts pumping blue and gold striped blood through our veins (seriously that HGH has messed up my insides) then any doubt or pain will quickly disappear. We were denied Grand Final glory a few short years ago. Now is our time. This must be our weekend. Make it happen. Game faces on.... Now!

## AA / 10 WOMENS

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs GLADESVILLE SHARKS 2

Another game with tireless effort from AAW Division 10. What was constant about this game which was obvious to us and the opposition is that handballs were never called, so each team would handball and the game just flowed on. Due to injury, illness and girls having other commitments we only had 10 girls on the field. With WARWICK organising players and providing support all the girls pushed on, everyone sucked in the tiredness, breathlessness and kept running around the park all day. We kept defending tight with LOZ, ANNEMARIE,

ANNA and JULES. In the first half we had a one minute lapse of concentration and Gladesville capitalised on that. KATHY H our goalie, saved many goals but at one point of the game dived for the ball and we all cheered for her as it was an awesome save. Our attack was fast and furious once our mid-fielders got the ball (ANGIE, AMANDA, MEL or LISA) just hammered the balls past the defenders. KATHY C our striker had many attempts at goal and displayed her frustration when the ball did not connect to the back of the net. MEL kept hitting the ball but in all her 5 or more attempts just missed the goals by a fraction. AMANDA had a crack outside the box and hit the ball over the net. We had a chance in the second half when the Gladesville goalie got cocky and went outside the box, our girls got confused and missed that chance of scoring. MEL hit a magnificent ball across the goal and unfortunately for ANGIE she wasn't able to connect to get the ball into the back of the goal. A striker from Gladesville said to me, that Thornleigh should be winning for all the attempts in goal and how even though we were down we kept Gladesville Sharks on their toes. But towards the last 10 minutes Gladesville Sharks scored again from the far left corner of the box. But I am so proud of the girls on this team, they never give up, they all work so hard and I know with having a full time coach, and training we will be a team to be reckoned with next season.

## AA / 11

### THORNLEIGH 4 vs KENTHURST 1

In honour of the round robin, pretty much every player associated with the AA11 side managed to put in an appearance today, which clearly intimidated the opposition who had rocked up with a much smaller sideline presence. The Thunders came out firing, with NIFTY NICK, CUNNING CAM, and COURAGEOUS CRAIG putting pressure on the opposition backs early, while in the back line GUTSY GUS, SUPER STU, WONDROUS WESTIE, OMNIPOTENT OWEN and OMAR THE AMAZING teamed up well to cleverly thwart some vigorous attack by Kenthurst. With the ball being fired up and down the field at a ferocious pace, it was the elder statesman of the team who finally drew first blood as JOHN THE JUMPING GIANT struck the ball beautifully with his shiny bald forehead and found the back of the net. Wowing the crowd with a jolly jig to celebrate, he then shot down the field 30 seconds later to pick up a lovely cross that had beaten the Thornleigh forward line and the Kenthurst backs and midfielders, to power home his second goal for the day. Completely buoyed up, DYNAMIC DAVE started throwing his weight around, and was twice penalised for hands in the back before the opposition flattened him and Thornleigh picked up a direct penalty. The game was temporarily halted while NIFTY NICK and PERFECT PETE scissor-paper-rocked their way to deciding who would take the kick with PERFECT PETE ultimately winning the contest and scoring the goal. DANGEROUS DAN and NIMBLE NEIL then came into play to give Thunder some fresh legs and increased fire-power. The second half was again a close and hard fought contest, with COURAGEOUS CRAIG playing brilliantly before his calf finally got the better of him, and SUPER STU making a massive impact before he too hobbled from the field. As Thornleigh regathered, Kenthurst finally slipped one through, to put the score at 3-1..... and then the pressure really started. Kenthurst made an amazing recovery, and we were lucky to have a finicky ref who managed to ping them for being a pink-toe off-side as they squeezed another past OMAR. Digging deep in the face of the renewed Kenthurst attack, NIFTY NICK

made a fabulous break down the field, took on and beat two backs and the goalie before they all ended in a heap, watching the ball dribble slowly towards goals..... and just knock the post to prevent what looked to be a miracle (but well deserved) goal. With amazing presence of mind and a good burst of speed, NIMBLE NEIL managed to outpace what was left of the Kenthurst backline and get his foot to the ball as it bounced off the post, potting the match-winner, and sending Thornleigh home victorious. Sideline Eye's Player of the Day: JUMPING JOHN FOWLER

## AA / 19

### THORNLEIGH 2 vs EPPING YMCA 1

This was a great win by our all age young guns. In our first ever semi final against the team that beat us two zip three weeks ago we knew that we needed to play a special game to beat a very good YMCA team. We had trained hard during the week with this game in mind and with our coach MATT away we were going to have to do the job ourselves and rely on our manager to run the team (and as a coach he makes a good manager). The boys were ready to play the game of their lives and did they what!!! Our game plan was to keep it simple with short passes to the flanks and attack through the edges but we needed to play the game at a hundred miles an hour to put Epping off their game. We had decided to keep rotating the mid field so that we could keep fresh legs running at YMCA and this strategy worked a treat as our boys ran Epping off the park and they had no answer to our speed. We were completely dominating the opposition and were desperately unlucky not to be at least one up at half time as PAUL, who was having a blinder up front, went through the last Epping defender and slotted it home only to be pulled back and have the opposition awarded a free kick for tripping over Paul's boot. We came out from the break just as we finished the first half and were rewarded with a gem of a goal as PAUL latched onto a cross from HAYDEN and beat the keeper hands down. The game was being played at a frantic pace as the play swept from end to end, but our boys held their nerve at the back and kept turning around the YMCA team and going back onto the attack. Something had to give with this sustained pressure on both teams and it was the opposition that cracked as PAUL again scored from a great cross after CHRIS threaded the needle with a free kick to find the flying right boot of PAUL. Our team played outstanding football today and any one who watched this game was rewarded with a quality game of football as both teams strove to dominate this important clash and to say that this is the best game that this team has played is an understatement. At the back our keeper PETER on his 21st birthday (happy birthday mate) played strongly throughout the game and made an amazing save at the death that was a classic. Our backs LIAM, DESHAN and EDDY were absolute rocks who refused to crack when the going got tough, and our Mids who were absolute champions today and ran themselves ragged CHRIS, TERENCE, JORDAN, NICK, DAVE and HAYDEN while upfront the man of the match PAUL with MARC and NATHAN in support terrorised the Epping defence .

We play the Premiers next week and this game should be a cracker as we play for the right to compete in the Championship final and that is something that this team thoroughly deserves. Well played boys you have done yourselves and your Club proud.

## PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

### THORNLEIGH 4 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 2

Captain, AVAN YOUNG, opened the scoring with a goal 10 minutes into the game. This was quickly followed by goals from MATTHEW BARBER and another from AVAN. With a 3:0 lead at half time Thunder looked to have the game wrapped up. West Pennant Hills had other ideas, and were unlucky not to score when keeper TRISTAN TULLOCH saved a one on one mid way through the second half. WPH strikers started to create space and our defenders, at times, looked lost. WPH's persistence was rewarded with two quick goals. With 25 minutes to go the match looked set for an exciting finish. Coach Petros looked anxiously at his bench and decided to make a number of changes to slow down WPH's momentum. These substitutes paid dividends and Thunder started to gain the upper hand. Substitute MARK HOLLIDAY secured Thunder's win with a close range goal in the last 5 minutes of play. TIM HILL and DAMIEN SUPLINA deserve mention for their non stop display in the midfield. Next Saturday we take on second placed St Andrews at Oakleigh Oval in a must win game to secure our top 4 spot.

## PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

With neither team able to make the top four pride was the main thing at stake in this local derby. Before this game both teams were on equal points in 5th spot, only a few goals separated them. It was an exciting game with play moving from end to end. Both teams had chances but were denied by last minute clearing kicks and good goal keeping. Our best effort was left until the last few minutes of play when keeper, turned striker, DUNCAN STEADMAN, hit the post from the edge of the box. OWEN LANSLEY had one of his best games of the season with a number of penetrating runs and clearances. STEPHEN LEE caused havoc down the right side of the field, showing ball skills we haven't seen all year. Next Saturday we take on competition leaders St Andrews.

