



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

12-13 April 2008



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Thank you to everyone who could attend our first full committee meeting last Monday. We hope everyone can and will make the effort to turn up to these meetings so that everyone can be kept informed of what is happening in the club and to disseminate important information from each of the associations. There has been a call for volunteers to join the Skills Clinic Review Committee and the Trivia Night Committee. If you would like to help out please contact the secretary, Graeme Tingle to register your interest.

The season continues to progress well and our teams seem to be more than up to the task of being competitive. If you have or are encountering any problems, please let the committee know so that they can seek a solution earlier rather than later.

One piece of disappointing news is that the Oakleigh Canteen was broken into over the weekend resulting in a large loss to the club. We will need to heighten security of the canteen, equipment and change rooms. Please keep valuables with you or locked in your vehicles and ensure that all locks are securely locked. There is no point making things easy for criminals.

Hope those that can, are enjoying the school holidays.

Yours in commitment

Rob Roberts

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 12 April 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	Carlingford Redbacks	2	4
U9/7	All Saints Hunters Hill	1	1
U10/2	West Ryde Rovers	2	1
U10/6	North Ryde	2	0
U11/3	Carlingford Redbacks	3	2
U12/3	North Epping Rangers	1	3
U13/3	Carlingford Redbacks	6	0
U14/4	Epping Eastwood	2	1
U15/1	West Pennant Hills Red	2	3
U16/2	Roselea	4	0
U16/3	West Ryde Rovers	0	7
AA/6	West Ryde Rovers	0	1
AA/9	Gladesville Ravens	2	0
AA/12	West Pennant Hills	2	1
AA/14	Carlingford Redbacks	3	2
AA/18	Kenthurst	0	4
AA/19	Macquarie Combined	3	1
AA/22	Normanhurst	3	2
O35/2	Glenhaven	3	1
O35/5	Kenthurst	1	3
PL/Res	West Pennant Hills	0	1
PL/1 st	West Pennant Hills	2	2

NWSWS Competition – 13 April 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U13/1	Beecroft	0	4
U13/2	Kenthurst	0	7
U14/1	Epping YMCA	0	10
U16/1	Kenthurst	1	4
U17/1	Mt St Benedict	3	1
AA/4	Sydney Uni	1	1
AA/10	Putney	1	2



Thunder FC Sponsors – 2008 Season

Thunder FC relies on the financial support of its 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 2008 season and encourage everyone associated with Thunder FC to support these local businesses.

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Thornleigh Soccer Club

A division of Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc. (ABN 65 286 516 271)
P.O. Box 205 Thornleigh NSW 2120

For Sale THUNDER JACKETS and HATS Last week at discounted price!! Hurry!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Attention players, parents and spectators:

The new 2008 Thunder FC Club jackets have arrived.

Warm fleecy lined and weather resistant. We have all sizes starting from U6 right through to XXXL. For the next 2 weeks only, we have SLASHED the price to \$45 each.

HURRY!!! Limited numbers available!!!!

Email your order to CRAIG DENYER: denyerconstructions@bigpond.com



Thunder Caps which you would have seen many of our club members wearing, are a bargain at only \$10 each.



UNDER 6 GREEN A

THORNLEIGH A vs THORNLEIGH B

A second great effort from the boys in round two. The game looked like being an arm wrestle for the first five minutes with both sides contesting for the ball and some solid defending. Green A gradually got the better of Green B, and a flurry of late first half goals saw Green A with a good lead at the break. The second half was more of the same, and MARK proved what a natural defender he is with excellent positioning and fabulous tackling. TIMON is already getting the hang of the art of slide tackling, so the Much household is up for some early removing of grass stains from shorts. MITCHELL and SEAN scored and scored, whilst HARRY had a number of top long range attempts, and ran until he dropped (literally). Both teams had only five players and everyone seemed tired and hot by the time the final whistle came. Well done to everyone!

Player of the Match - MITCHELL

Encouragement Award - HARRY

UNDER 6 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH B vs THORNLEIGH A

This week saw the team back at Ruddock Park vs our friends from Thornleigh A. Great enthusiasm once again and some stylish backheelers initially from JACQUELINE. A good number of attacking thrusts from CALIN and LUCAS were met by a solid defence. As per coach's instructions RILEY made impressive bursts down the wing for most of the game. LIAM was superb in defence! He repelled many of the opposition's attacks again and again. MIKA and LUCAS had great attempts at goal and we had a lucky 'rebound' into goal. The second half saw some great work from the entire team and kept the opposition very quiet. Numerous attacks fell just short but the team kept on trying in the heat of the late morning sun. It was a fantastic effort by all the players and they are really starting to benefit from training and have terrific presence of mind on the field to defend or attack when required.

LIAM DRAPER - Player of the week

JACQUELINE NOTLEY-RUMBENS - Merit award of the week

UNDER 6 RED B

THORNLEIGH vs. WEST PENNANT HILLS CHERRYBROOK A

The boys came up against some tough competition this week, but CHARBEL SOMANI showed the boys how to attack the ball against the other team. MYLES CAVANOUGH made some amazing saves in front of the goal. WILL IRISH was out running his heart out again and kicking the ball well down and across the field. Excitement started to build toward the end of the game, with some good kicks being made towards goal by BRENDAN SMART, WILL PEARSON and THOMAS REILLY, unfortunately no cartwheels from him this week. The boys had a great time and are looking forward to more exciting games.



UNDER 6 WHITE A

THORNLEIGH VS WEST PENNANT HILLS

Second game for the season and didn't we play well! The game started out with a couple too many goals scored by WPH which certainly spurred LAURA on, who successfully scored two fantastic goals, one of which was the longest run into the goal posts. JESSE also helped the team with a fancy goal even if he had quite a few spills along the way to his victory. LAURA scored a third goal for the Thunders. NIAMH showed some fantastic footwork and a spectacular fall while blocking the ball. TAJ showed plenty of support for his team near the goals as he saved a few balls from running in! TAJ also joined his team mates in some artful attack. JACK and EUAN showed us some great defending tactics and plenty of running with the ball. JORDAN showed us his speed this week as well as some skilful kicks with getting the ball out of the crowd. Unfortunately this did not help the team score any more goals. "Well done everyone" to a great match. Quote of the day coming from TAJ "WE'RE THE BEST TEAM ALIVE" after our first few goals were scored. Player of the match going to LAURA for her huge kicks ensuring many successful goals.

UNDER 6 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH 7 vs NORMANHURST A 7

Saturday morning saw the second game of the season bring out some great ball skills from our boys in a tight match against Normanhurst A. Scores were neck to neck for the most part of the game with the final score ending with a 7 all tie. It was a fast game with excitement from end to end. All our players really started to work well together as a team and they played a great game with much improvement in their passing and defence skills. Both SAM HOBSON and HARRY HOBSON dominated the game with their fantastic foot work and both boys scored a run of goals. The defence line was solid with great efforts from, ZAK ELVY and JACK VANDEWATER while LACHLAN CAMPBELL did a good job of guarding the goals. TOM MADDREN showed some fantastic kicking skills and JOSH FORAN had a great all round game and was always in the thick of the action. For his fantastic efforts JOSH received the award for Player of the Week – well done JOSH! As the season progresses there's no doubt this team is going to be unstoppable! A special mention for the dads behind our team - thanks to our wonderful coach SHANE ELVY who is doing an incredible job encouraging and guiding the boys and to PHILIP MADDREN our Manager for keeping us so well organised.

UNDER 6 YELLOW A

THORNLEIGH A vs KENTHURST B

Week 2 saw our team two players short but this did not deter the enthusiasm and excitement that the five other boys brought with them to Kenthurst Park. On a dew-soaked field LIAM TOMIC got proceedings underway as our boys began their attack on the Kenthurst goal. Unfortunately, and as we witnessed in Week 1, Thornleigh soon took up defence of their own goal. HARRISON HOWARD and THOMAS BENNET helped in trying to turn the game around by getting the ball into the opposition's half whilst AXIE TADZIK and PETER BAYNIE took up defensive positions. Although both games this season has seen the opposition have stronger and obviously more 'experienced' players, our boys can hold their heads high as what they are achieving is in line with what this game is all about...and that is having fun! The first Player of The Week certificate was presented after the game and that went to PETER BAYNIE. Well done PETER.

UNDER 6 YELLOW B

THORNLEIGH B 12 vs REDFIELD 3

This week we played a much diminished Redfield team (they had no subs), who played gallantly and started the game with a goal. However Thornleigh dominated the first half with JACOB KALNINS starting the scoring spree, followed by ISABELLE NATOLI and a fabulous run and score by CALLUM SHELLEY. What fantastic defence again by MASON SHELLEY, with a few runs up the front, supporting his team mates. There was great sportsmanship in this game with JASMINE WILLIAMS and LACHLAN KELLY holding the team together. JESSICA DARGAN did some fantastic mid field work, in the thick of it when it really counted. Some good plays by Redfield gave them a couple of goals in the second half drawing great applause from both sides of the field. A great contest, in the spirit of the game.

UNDER 7 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH (GREEN B) 2 vs THORNLEIGH (GREEN A) 6

A great effort from our team as we came up against one of the best Thunder teams in the business – a real local derby. JONATHAN CHAN and ISAAC LANE set a cracking pace that helped us to dominate field position for much of the first half, with ISAAC DREW (“IZY”) providing great support at the back. JIMMIE SHRUBB launched numerous counter attacks that surprised the opposition, and was unlucky not to score. TARA WILSON continued to chase hard at the ball, and JOSHUA COLLEY really lifted the team in the second half as tiredness crept in. BEN LANG was our star this week, playing mostly in defence but scoring two really impressive goals. As our football starters, IZY, JIMMIE and TARA continue to improve, and our second year players build on their skills, we look forward to more fun ahead.

UNDER 7 RED A

THORNLEIGH 0 vs PENNANT HILLS 7

It was a good game and the Thornleigh team was as always very enthusiastic. VERONICA and BLAKE pulled off some great saves. Great attack by NICK, HAMISH and DANIELLE. EMILY and NICK were always after the ball. All team members fought to the end. Player of the week was EMILY KNIGHT for not giving up and nearly scoring a goal.

UNDER 7 RED B

THORNLEIGH 2 VS GLENHAVEN 6

The Red Bees gave their all again in a very physical encounter against Glenhaven, and despite the rough and tumble all came away laughing and smiling. JAMIE PAYNE'S relentless drive to win the ball unfortunately earned him the unwanted attention of one opponent. Despite this, he soldiered on and came away smiling. OLIVIA FLACK also came back strongly to push back the opposition numerous times after an early injury. LUCIAN CHAMPION has been practising his goal kicks with several being lobbed over the heads of all into the open territory of the half way line. Having seen this ability, HARRISON PATCHETT was able to capitalise on these by running the ball down the field to score

twice. While the attacking was determined, we spent much of the game fending off Glenhaven, and showing great resolve and clearing kicks was CASSANDRA HILL. In this task IRIS YUAN also stopped several attempts of the opposition by sending the ball straight back upfield. ADELAIDE GIFFNEY had another great game and once again displayed the correct way to take the goal kicks and sideline kick-ins by sending them upfield and away from the opposition. This week's Player of the Match went to MASON OATES who put in great effort both in ploughing his way through a crowd of defending opposition on numerous occasions, and even reliving U/6 Goal Keeping glory days by instinctively diving onto the ball to prevent an opposition goal. A great effort by all the "Red Bees"!

UNDER 7 WHITE

THORNLEIGH vs GLENHAVEN A

This game was very much a mismatch with Glenhaven being a physically bigger team and technically far superior to ours. If this was not enough of a disadvantage, we lost CONNOR CLARKE who sustained a season ending injury in the first minutes of the game. Despite these hurdles, our players never threw in the towel and continued to battle away for the entire game. THEA SCHMERTMANN, MATTHEW PINES and DYLAN WELGEMOED tried their best while REILLY KING, LUKE BIRRELL and CONNOR LOGAN continued to "mix it" with the bigger opposition. Whilst we were heavily beaten on the scoreboard, our players showed a lot of character and will only have benefited from this experience. Our best wishes go to CONNOR CLARKE and we wish him a speedy recovery.

UNDER 7 YELLOW

THORNLEIGH 2 - GLENHAVEN 7

The boys certainly came up against stiff opposition this week and went down fighting. The opposition were a lot bigger and seemed to have been playing together for years, that being said our boys put in a sterling effort and never gave up. JORDAN-LEE BACON seems to love the defending role, and he and BRADLEY HOWARD made some telling tackles. JOSHUA BENNETT & JARRET WILSON, are becoming our usual midfielders and too made some great tackles as well as telling runs around the field. MORGAN HUGHES & DANIEL PATTERSON scored our goals this week, although having limited chances, they took them when they had them. Thornleigh went down 7-2 but the game was a lot closer than the scoreline suggested with our boys measuring up physically and all us parents were extremely proud of them.



UNDER 8 GOLD

THORNLEIGH 6 vs GLADESVILLE SHARKS 0

With the game on home turf, the team seemed relaxed yet rearing to go. TIM REYNOLDS put in a brilliant performance earning him Player of the Week. TIM showed from the start his natural instincts for the game, keeping tabs on the ball every second, demonstrating superb defence skills well beyond his years; his talent, tackles and trademark thundering boots ensured the ball was launched out of the opposition's control time and time again. Just into first half, DYLAN DONOVAN fearlessly tackled the ball beautifully to gain control then passed it to MATTHEW BUTLER for a "warm-up" goal attempt. The Thunders demonstrated magnificent teamwork when JAMES YOUNG executed a brilliant tackle passing the ball to LOUISA LAWRENCE who skilfully passed it to ROWAN WOOD who, like lightning, delivered the ball beautifully to MATTHEW to score an exciting first goal of the match. The excitement continued when ROWAN seized an opportunity to score but the Sharks' goalkeeper made an impressive save. Our first half goalkeeper, ALEXANDER WALSH, keen and alert, successfully saved a couple of goal attempts. Merit award winner, MATTY "Beckham" BUTLER finished the first half with a 2nd goal executed in true striker fashion. After half-time we were "Bending It with BUTLER" again when MATTY immediately sprang back into attack-mode scoring his 3rd fabulous goal. With drive and determination, DYLAN DONOVAN took the ball mid-half and ran with it ending in his second "stuntman" body roll of the game. Despite the ¾ field, the teams closed in which saw LACHLAN NEWLAND getting in on the action. Then NICHOLAS WENSLEY fearlessly tackled the ball, breaking away from the throng and skilfully dribbling the ball up the field with unforeseen confidence, earning him the Skills award. Our 2nd half goalkeeper, DANIEL "Safe-Hands" DRAPER, demonstrated his skill in this position. Despite the Sharks' formidable strikes at goal, "Safe-Hands" DAN ensured their attempts were thwarted every time. There was excitement when ALEXANDER WALSH tackled and ran with the ball, but shock and dismay followed when, after "tackling" ALEX, the Sharks' player locked his boots around ALEX'S ankle. Although the culprit was caught out with every Thunder parent as witness, we didn't call a penalty. Finishing on a more savoury note, the Thunders scored a 4th goal thanks to some brilliant teamwork with ALEXANDER kicking the ball and rebounding off "Beckham" BUTLER'S boot! Terrific game team – Well done!

UNDER 8 ORANGE

THORNLEIGH 7 vs GLADESVILLE SHARKS 0

On a very dewy, far away field the Orange U8's commenced their away games season with a solid victory. Our rotating defensive players performed their duties to perfection resulting in our goalies never touching the ball. Player of the Match was well and truly earned by TOM SELLIN who was able to blast two second half goals into the back of the net. A special mention is needed for TRISTAN DOWNEY and DANIEL MALLETT who showed great teamwork skills, providing excellent passing combinations, controlling the mid-field and feeding the ball forward to their team mates. Our wing play was dominated by JOSHUA WATKINS with several break ways that resulted in a three goal haul as well as some precisely struck and lofted crosses into the goal square. BRAIDEN WOLHOFF was on the receiving end of one cross and angled the ball between the goalie and the far post for a goal. JAMES IRISH seemed to be everywhere on the field, taking the ball from our half, dribbling past the defence many times, and striking a well timed pass that found HUGH FRASER who netted a late second half

goal. ZACARY MCLEOD hungry for action, pounced on a loose ball in the goal mouth and slotted the ball past a diving goal keeper for a score. It is great to see all the teamwork, ball control, passing and positional play is working for us.

UNDER 8 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 4 vs REDFIELD LIONS 8

Well, what shall I write other than that the result doesn't really deliver how great the boys played? In the first half, THOMAS DAKIN was our goalie and he did an excellent job. LIAM GODFREY, DANIEL SUNNUCKS and LEWIS HABKOUK showed off some really good passing skills and after a big kick, LEWIS was rewarded with the first goal in this game. JOSEPH MATTATA kept on fighting hard for the ball and stayed focused at all times. ETHAN GODFREY was as focused and showed his great ball control. MARCUS and WILLIAM GRANT started as full backs this time and hardly any ball got past them. After a good pass, LEWIS got another good shot at the goal. Unfortunately we couldn't celebrate for too long as, after a foul we then had to see them getting their first goal as well... double trouble! Just after the kick off to the second half Redfield got another goal which made it a draw. They tested our Goalie WILLIAM pretty often, but he did a great job. After we fell back 2:3, CONNOR DRUMM showed off his determination and was rewarded with a goal. Just minutes later it looked as if our boys turned the game around and LEWIS scored his next goal. JOSHUA MUCH and MATTHEW PERRIMAN kept Redfield away from the goal for quite a while and were always in the middle of the action. Unfortunately our boys got four more goals in the last minutes, but as I said it doesn't really show, how good they played. They never gave up and tried till the very end. Good effort boys!

UNDER 9/3

THORNLEIGH 2 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 4

Both teams packed our lunch and travelled all the way out into the sticks (Annangrove Oval) for this match. Just about the entire 1st half was played by our defence with goalie HARRISON DARGAN getting a heavy workout. We were 1 goal down when the hard, consistent work by our backs VEERAN MUDALIAR, BEN KNIGHT, HARRISON DAVEY and REUBEN SPARGO paid off with a glimpse at the other end of the field where YASHIR ELLIIN made a breakthrough pass toward the goal for LACHLAN DUNLOP to run onto and score our first goal. With no reserves our boys were feeling the heat and no sooner had we levelled the score, the very tall & quick opposition replied with their second goal to make the score 2-1. After a serious talk from coach Natoli and a drink & orange at ½ time the boys ran on with new vigour. With some great passing from the backs through the midfielders – JOSH NATOLI, LACHLAN DUNLOP and TOM KENNEDY to the forwards JOSH REIDY & TOM MCDOWELL, TOM MCDOWELL was able to score with a well placed shot over the top of several defence and past the goalie into the corner of the net to even the score 2-2. More time was spent in our attacking end during the second half of the game and a great shot at goal by YASHIR ELLIIN narrowly missed. In what was looking like a "sea-sawing game" Carlingford added two more goals to their score before the final whistle to end the game 4-2. Man of the Match was awarded to TOM KENNEDY for great field positioning throughout the game.

UNDER 10/6

THORNLEIGH 2 vs NORTH RYDE 0

Picture this : Beautiful sunny morning at Magdala Oval North Ryde where Thornleigh under 10s were to play their 2nd game of the season against North Ryde. The team were pumped and ready to go and what a game it was with a cracking 2 - 0 win to Thornleigh, the crowd were cheering and so excited as was our terrific team. Now sit back and relax and I will share a few of the highlights of the match with you.

The team ran onto the field and found their positions, all ready and the whistle blew!!! Kick-off and the ball quickly travelled to our end of the field with a good save by our goalie TESSA who then gave it a big boot out to mid field. TESSA saved many goals in the first half. Thornleigh were showing their great skills at defence as MARK defended the ball and retrieved it from the other team and kicked it to our players. Good job MARK. Next, JACK had the ball passed to him and decided to have a shot at goal but their goalie made a good save. Good try JACK. North Ryde kicked the ball out and we had possession and GABRIAL dribbled it up the sideline to MATHEW who kicked it down the field away from their players. Good defence GABRIEL and MATHEW. The ball was once again in our possession when HARRISON received the pass from one of our players and decided he would take a shot at goal but they were there to save it. Good effort HARRISON. Thornleigh had the ball in the other team's goal area for most of the first half and played a good game. THOMAS was weaving in and out keeping the ball away from their players, what a great game THOMAS was playing.

Half Time - Nil All. Whistle Blew and both teams were back on the field.

This half we changed goalies and JAYDEN was in goal and TESSA out on the field. JAYDEN saved many goals in this half and showed good kicking skills. Good effort JAYDEN. Thornleigh were off again down to North Ryde's end of the field for what was going to be CARLYS first attempt at goal, she gave it a good boot but the keeper saved it. Good try CARLY. This was beginning to be a very intense game and our defence of ZOE and JULIAN were fantastic, keeping the ball away from our end of the field with some great kicking. Well done ZOE and JULIAN. Thornleigh was passing the ball like pros and then CARLY had the ball again running up the centre of the field passing North Ryde players on the way for a shot at goal and this time it was a WINNER!! It was our first goal and the first for the season and what a great goal it was. Fantastic CARLY. The score was now 1 Nil to us. The team played so well, NICHOLAS was passed the ball and dribbled it up the field with several great passes to follow. Well done NICHOLAS. ISABELLE now had the ball with North Ryde hot on her tail but ISABELLE held on to it and went for a shot at goal but their goalie was there to pick it up. Good run and try at goal ISABELLE. North Ryde Kicked the ball out from their goal area and with some clever foot work Thornleigh had the ball again passing it to each other. Then JOSEPH had the ball and off he went up the field and carefully lined it up for a shot and in it went. Not only our 2nd goal for the game but 2nd one for the season. What a terrific goal JOSEPH.

Final Score 2-0 in our favour.

Our team of girls and boys Carly, Tessa, Zoe, Isabelle, Jayden, Julian, Jack, Mark, Thomas, Gabriel, Nicholas, Joseph, Harrison and Mathew all played very well and should be proud of themselves. This game will go down in the History Book not only because it was our first win but most of all because our team played together like a team of professionals helping each other out and playing with such spirit and having fun while they were doing it. A job well done! Player of the match was awarded to CARLY, Congratulations! Big thank you to our coach Brian and Manager Tracey and all the parents and family members that come each week to cheer on the team .

UNDER 11/3

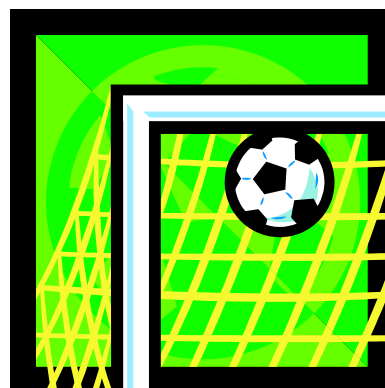
THORNLEIGH 3 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 2

The U11/3's played a fantastic game against a spirited opposition and scored their first win of the season. The game was played at a fast pace with both teams making good breaks and the ball going from one end to the other. Each team had opportunities to score, however, after some sustained pressure and good passing and support the first goal was scored by Thornleigh. That saw us go in at half time 1-nil up. Shortly after halftime Carlingford scored and the pressure was right on again, with the team tightening up in defence. We made several good breaks, with two being converted, we found ourselves in the middle of the second half up 3 to 1. To the Redback's credit, they upped the tempo and after a few raids in our goal area, found themselves with a penalty shot, which they converted to make the final score 3-2. The last ten minutes was heart stopping with both sides playing skillfully. In the end Thornleigh deserved their win with a great team display of defence and attack. Well Done.

UNDER 12/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 3

The Thunder Threes came back to earth with a bit of a thud this week with their first loss in two seasons. However they can be proud of their efforts as they produced a good game of football. The first half was played at a pace that we are just not used to and we were three goals down at half time. Outstanding in the first half were TAYLA who ran herself ragged and kept tackling anyone nearby, JULIAN who just refused to give an inch and TOM D who was running like a thoroughbred at centre back and chased down and defused many dangerous situations. WILL also had a very strong game in the midfield. The second half was much better as the Threes started to dictate the pace of the game. From the start it was us having the shots on goal with both BLAKE and MITCH going close and CAMERON also having a good chance from a great NICK pass. BLAKE hit the post and the ball came back to the keeper with Thunder players just waiting to pounce. Finally the Threes showed their spectators what they are really made of. MITCH took the ball on his own side of halfway and streaked down the left. He beat a couple of defenders and sent a wicked cross over to BLAKE who charged in to the box. The ball was then sent over to NICK who jinked and jived and slotted the ball past the keeper for a great goal. From then on we were shown some great skills with NICK going close again. COACH BOB was full of praise for the team at the end of the game. Winning the second half was a great effort after being out played comprehensively in the first half. This showed the team has real character. Well played Thunder Threes!!



UNDER 13/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 0 VS BEECROFT 4

With school holidays playing havoc with our ranks, the Thunder cheer squad were treated to a display of tenacity and sheer will power, as our 10 intrepid Thunderettes faced the mighty Beecroft. Every player put in a huge effort, and kept going despite taking a few very hard knocks. JESS P, BETH and ELISE made some lovely breaks in the forward line, while JAS, JOEY, KATHERINE, ALANA and RACHEL had huge games, mixing attack with defence. DANI had a fabulous game at back, demonstrating an incredibly powerful kicking game and some really clever footwork and bruising tackles, while goalies REBEKA and JAS were outstanding, with REBEKA receiving compliments from the opposition coach on her goal keeping ability. Although they didn't find the back of the net today, the girls showed good positioning and some great passing work, which augers well for a very competitive season. A big thank you to the Browns, Tompkins and Meikles for dragging their weary families out of bed early to help dress the field. Players of the Match: Coach's Choice – ALANA WILLIS and JOEY HANBY; Players Choice: RACHEL TOMPKINS.

UNDER 13/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 0 vs KENTHURST 7

Well as the saying goes it was a game of two halves. The first half was 1-0 and a really close game, some excellent defence and some amazing attack. Some individual line breaks from the like of CLAIRE NEWLAND and KIRA MILLER kept the Kenthurst goalie on her toes. STEPHANIE KIM with her now trademark runs up the sideline fed the ball beautifully to the attacking forwards and certainly earned that puffed look at half time. SOPHIE DENCH made massive improvements holding up the ball for some sensational crosses and attacking the goal herself with three defenders on her. The highest praise of the day must go to ELLEN BOUCHER who pulled off two Mark Schwarzer like saves with her lightning reflexes and willingness to put her body on the line. Great job Ellen! TAHLIA LANG played her usual stalwart defence and added great strikepower with her huge kicks, and HANNAH TAYLOR was such a big threat that the opposition usually had two players marking her.

The second half was a different story as the girls got tired and let a few in. On a positive note LAURA BRAMWELL showed some spark in the attack and just has to be willing to grab for glory to put the ball in the net. CLAUDIA NITSCHKE was her usual dynamo self constantly harassing in the midfield and making sure Kenthurst had to work for every yard, DIANA CAVILL showed us her skills by executing a few flawless slide tackles at crucial moments, and made the job easier for ANNA BRAMWELL who showed us what Thornleigh spirit is about by coming off injured then begging to go back on. EMMA FERGUSON showed some great passing skills that displayed her foresight of the game. A little bit of work on fitness for training and we will be ready to go.

UNDER 13/3

THORNLEIGH 6 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 2

This week saw the boys take a while to 'find their feet' up to the point when the opposition scored the first goal in the 7th minute. It was then that the pace picked up and within a minute a brilliant forward drive by SAM LANE saw him score our first goal. It was 10 minutes later when some great midfield play by JACK ANGEL set up SAM LANE to score the 2nd goal. There were moments of

brilliance in the person of CALLUM MOSES that saw some fantastic forward play up the wing. A great goal by ALASDAIR BELLING brought our half time goal tally to 3. The 2nd half had goal keeper JOSHUA COOPER at his usual best defending the goals. Other areas of brilliance saw MATTHEW FORD and JACOB KOWALSKI with some superb mid-field play as well as some solid defence by FERGUS BARRY-CORDEROY and SAMUEL CLARKE. It was the Redbacks again to score first in the 2nd half, but Thornleigh soon responded with a great forward run by DARREN JOOSTEN who also scored our 4th goal. JACOB KOWALSKI scored the 5th goal and in the dying minutes of the game we saw a fantastic solo run by JACOB (again!) bringing our final goal tally to 6. Overall we saw some good 'thinking' play by the boys today with some great team work and moments where the passing had to be seen to be believed!

UNDER 14/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 0 vs EPPING YMCA 10



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A tremendous show of determination and THUNDER Spirit that made us all proud. The team only had nine players against a squad of 13. A defensive strategy was needed where the girls learnt what it meant to "mark your player". How could they forget when it was constantly being hollered from the coaches on the side line. Our Goalies (SAMMIE TRENAMAN & BRITTNEY KNIGHT) were sensational and kept busy the whole match and our

full backs did a tremendous job at closing down the attacks. Well done to LISA PHILLIPS who was extremely effective as right back. BRITTNEY KNIGHT and LAUREN BONNER were clearing and punching the ball out of the centre with ALYCE THOMPSON on the left closing down the left hand side. In the middle of the park we had EMILIE LOWE, TESS SANT, GEORGIA DAVIS, ALISSIA ODDI and SAMMIE TRENAMAN playing both midfield and forwards. They also marked out their opponents with vigour and on about 14 occasions worked their way into the opposition's half. And of course a moral goal was awarded each time making the real score line 14:10 win to THORNLEIGH.... Hurrah – Go the THUNDERS!! The Player's player goes to BRITTNEY KNIGHT! This is an extraordinary effort given BRITTNEY has only played 1 competitive game of soccer in her life, prior to today. The team can be very proud of their effort as everyone put in 100%.

UNDER 15/1

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS (Red) 3

It was a day when Thunder was ready to rumble. A quick goal by RIKKI saw us take an early lead, but it was short lived with WPH scoring two goals in reply. The second half of the 1st half erupted into a bruising arm wrestle as both teams got stuck into solid tackles, digging deep and standing tall. ED's free kick was unlucky not to find touch!! Encouragement from Craig our coach and sustained pressure in the 2nd half saw Thunder bounce back with a blast into the back of the net from red undies HARRY. With the ball never leaving WPH half, Thunder continued to dominate until a sustained injury break near the end of the game had our guys lose momentum, which resulted in an unfortunate goal against the run of play. A great game to watch. A big improvement on last week. The boys showed plenty of energy and spirit. With the fresh imports, the boys will continue to improve as the squad bonds over the next few weeks.

UNDER 16/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs KENTHURST 4

Our girls played strong and tough from the first whistle. We opened the scoring with a wonderful goal from ANNALESE. All players fought hard to control the opposition and were unlucky to concede two goals to the Kenthurst side by half time. BEC W was outstanding, with great tackles and putting the ball forward. MADIE B in goals was solid and the backs drove the play down field time after time. Coach Mel must have been impressed by the toughness of her side as were the cheering supporters on the sideline. The second half saw many great moments of play with all girls featuring in solid attack and defence. SERANI was a stand-out in the backs with powerful kicking and on occasions, running the ball through the opposition. COURTNEY B was amazing in goals in the second half, stopping balls with courage and confidence. Sorry about Fiona's smelly gloves! Kenthurst found the odd opportunity and made us pay late in the game with two more goals. It is fair to say that if we could have scored a second goal early the result would have gone our way. Keep playing this style of football girls and the wins will come our way soon. The Kenthurst coach and manager complimented our effort and attitude during the game. Well done MEL D, and thank you girls for the entertainment and the great game we enjoyed watching. We are proud of you.

UNDER 16/2

THORNLEIGH 4 vs ROSELEA 0

Obviously a convincing win. However we toyed with them in the first half and only scored one goal, (DAVID) when we should really have scored a lot more. We had a lot of good opportunities by MATT, WAZZA, DAVID, BEN, HARRY, JON and PITCHER (skying his shots over the crossbar!!) and most of the play was in their half. DAZZA put in a very good performance with excellent passing and tackling. Just before half time we saw an adventurous tackle from STEVE against the opposition's midfield, resulting in a nice colour for the start of the season!

We put in a much better second half with MATT scoring our second goal soon after this half commenced. We then saw good attempts by DAVID, PITCHER, and WAZZA, before HARRY finished off a superb pass from WAZZA to create our third goal. MICHAEL put in an excellent game in defence giving the Roselea strikers a hard time with brilliant tackling and passing and the keeper, JOHN, also made a couple of extremely good saves. BEN managed to hold up midfield well from the wing slotting important balls through to the front line. We also saw some good teamwork between HARRY and JORDAN which set up many decent opportunities for the team. HARRY played an excellent game despite some obvious misses from the six yard box.!!! He set up a great goal, with Matt popping it in with 15 minutes of the game left. It seemed as though RYAN lead from example, with some gutsy shots from outside the box. We experienced some battling defence from JOSEPH (3kg lighter with his new "stylish" haircut), who by the end of the game had many of the opposition scared to be within 5 metres of him!! Despite ANDREW having to leave early, he truly left his mark on the game with tough and "scary" defending tactics! Late in the game we saw STEVE substituted on, only to see him limp off the field seconds later with an ankle injury (maybe he needs to MAN UP!). Despite JOHN MAUDE forgetting to bring his denim pants, he played an inspiring game, with him not only looking like a beast, but managing to perform as one too!

ALL AGE/4 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 1 vs SYDNEY UNI 1

Although the final score between the Thorns & Sydney Uni was 1 all, it was not indicative of the game played. After a delayed start because of a huge downpour and lots of lightening, Sydney Uni was extremely lucky to score their only goal in the first few minutes of the game and thanks to MEL no other goals were scored by our opposition. But that was closely followed up by JACKIE with our only goal. Many more attempts at goals were made by AMY, LAURA, JACKIE & MARYAM. Our girls were the superior players on the day, keep up the great work.

ALL AGE/6

THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 1

Maybe it's a bit strange to say that we played better than last week when we took a victory even though we lost but that's how it was. Although still rushed at times this was a much calmer Thunder team this week. Perhaps calmed by the return of BENTON JOHNSON in defence and TIM MORISON up front. Or maybe everyone was a little sleepy due to the 9:00 am start. The lads did themselves proud by the way they played this week, against an opposition that played a less than clean brand of football the Thunder rose above it and showed immense maturity and strength of character to get on with the football. With the chances we had we should have put this game to bed at halftime, but some off target and perhaps slightly rusty shooting coupled with some fine goal-keeping kept honours even at halftime. An unwelcome body blow was dealt to the Thunder by losing a man thanks to a rather dubious second yellow early in the second half however everyone put in what was expected and more to nullify any advantage. That our opposition scored with only 3 minutes left on the clock was a rather cruel sting in the tail. The unsportsmanlike conduct following this goal will make victory all the more sweeter for us in the second round. Absolutely brilliant performances from everyone in blue and yellow. especially JAMES RODGER, again skinning a knee that will remain skinned for the rest of the year, MURRAY GRAVES with a fine captain's knock, the RUSTON BROTHERS on fire and a man of the match performance from mid-field rock MARK KENNEDY. But everyone put in the kind of effort than can only be described as "special" (in the Bruce McEvaney sense of the word). Everyone takes a beating now and then. What measures a team is how they come back from it. Bouncebackability is the term... this team has it in spades.

ALL AGE/9

THORNLEIGH 2 vs GLADESVILLE 0

In a truly audacious move, team captain ANDREW NGUYEN handed ASHLEY PRYOR the captains' armband in an attempt to lift his 'game', a gesture applauded by teammates for its selfless nature. However, ASHLEY couldn't hold his end of the bargain, as he again performed appallingly. Nevertheless, AA9 triumphed, spurred on by REZAS' timely injury and the great interplay between RAY and EDDIE who are finally showing signs of transferring what players suggest is at times a disturbingly close off-field 'friendship', onto the pitch. JUSTIN was again proving to be a handful with his remarkably clumsy, yet effective runs through the opposition, only to see his effort wasted by the absence of any wing support from JOSH or CHRIS. The introduction of JASON to midfield culminated in essentially nothing. Realising the extreme lack of ability in their team, the trio of KIERAN, ANDREW and RYAN again stepped

up and provided great precision passing to set up KIERAN for a wonder strike and ASHLEY for an accidental tap in to see off the ravenous Ravens. Finally, special mention must be given to Miss Madeleine Stratton and Mrs Aurora Tully for again providing the backbone to our supporting party.

Players Player: ANDREW NGUYEN

Written by Scotty Olsson

AA/19

THORNLEIGH 3 vs MACQUARIE DRAGONS 1

This was another great effort from our young All Age team to keep our undefeated start to the season going. We started the game at full pace even allowing for the early Sunday morning start and completely dominated the Dragons as we attacked their goals at every opportunity. Macquarie had no answer to our attacks as we swept the ball along the flanks and attacked the goal mouth with regularity and only outstanding saves by the Dragons goalie kept them in the game. With this much pressure, the Dragons were sure to crack and the first goal came after a great cross from ROLY which saw PAUL put one away to open the scoring. We sustained the pressure on goal as shot after shot was plucked from the air by the Dragons keeper, until a solo effort from ROLY saw him break away from his marker and bang it home. This was a gem of a goal.

The whole team was playing good football with perfect passing to feet and we were running the opposition around the park. At the back PETER, LIAM, DESHAN, MATT and EDDY were rock solid and never allowed Macquarie to penetrate into our danger zone while the Mid fields, TERRY, PAUL, NICK, DAVE, ANDY and CHRIS were just too fast for the Dragons to content with, which created good opportunities up front for MARC and ROLY.

PAUL scored our third goal with a great solo effort and we came in at half time 3 nil up and feeling confident of going on with the game. We spoke at the break about the need to score first in the second half and not take the Dragons lightly as they would be sure to come out in the next half and put it too us. The second half started in the same vein with our team pressuring the opposition and we scored a fine goal from a ROLY header only to have the goal rejected due to player interference on our part. This fired up the Dragons and they started to get aggressive and attack our players physically. The referee had a few anxious moments as both teams stood up to each other and for the next 15 minutes the game turned into a battle field as both teams struggled to dominate the other. After a few penalties and words of caution by the referee the teams settled back into the game and to Macquarie's credit they started to get a roll on and we went onto the back foot as we desperately had to defend against the rejuvenated Dragon team.

We had several good shots on goal which we could not convert into points and although the Dragons were playing good football we still had their measure until the last five minute of the game when a defensive lapse let in a soft goal which disappointed the team as another clean sheet looked to be on offer. Well done boys you played some really good football for most of the match and we look forward to next week .

Match points

Paul Goode -2 points, Roland Leech - 2 points, Deshan Govender - 1 point, Liam Rayner - 1 point.

AA/22

THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORMANHURST 2

The thunder was in the background as well as the torrential rain which was quite apt for the across border grudge match against the Normanhurst Beagles. A hefty injury toll had skimmed the ranks to 11 with ADRIAN "nimble feet" MATHEWS stoically playing on 1 leg for the duration of the match. The game started in a subdued manner with the Beagles peppering our backs with the Graeme Arnold "long ball" and undertaking niggling tactics to put us off our

game. The pendulum turned as the first half progressed and in the 32nd minute a dramatic counter move started by Greg "the hitman" SUTTON with the ball being played down then left flank then across to the right ending with Simon "I'm not a jockey" HOLLOWAY slamming a shot against the post seeing JAMES 'the steam engine' McLENNAN using his goal poaching skills to score. The crowd were not even seated when NEIL "bulldog" URRY dribbled the ball through seven Beagles players and a couple of our own to put a magic throughball to Simon "I'm not a jockey" HOLLOWAY who tapped the ball in for another goal. The crowd erupted again and the game was in control. To state the second half was in contrast to the first is an understatement. The Beagles started to keep possession of the ball and could have scored on several occasions but were prevented by some very solid defence. Unfortunately the Beagles scored twice in quick succession which wasn't helped by PAUL "the 110% man" LEON dislocating his shoulder and JAMES "the steam engine" McLENNAN re-injuring his neck then shoulder then back then ankle. Heroic cannot describe PAUL "the 110% man" LEON'S decision to come back onto the ground after popping his shoulder back in and would you believe it the player in question set up the winning goal up by beating 2 defenders and putting a through ball to DEAN "the destroyer" MENZIES who pulled off the shot of the season to score. The last 5 minutes were a nail biting affair and the final whistle was glorious. Today's performance can be considered gutsy and puts us in a great position for the season ahead.

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 2

We hardly had time to sit down when West Pennant Hills scored their opening goal - it was just 30 seconds into the game. To Thunder's credit the players rallied back and put pressure on WPH's defensive line. MATEJ SLAVICEK was on hand to score Thunder's opening goal after their keeper fumbled a shot on goal. Thunder's second goal was a gem. BEN PIKE made a strong run down the right hand side of the field and drilled a bullet like shot into the back of the net. The second half was a tight affair with WPHs launching many counter attacks after we gave away possession in the final third of the field. WPHs scored the equalizer when one of their midfielders was given too much time on the ball. This was the second time this season that we have surrendered the lead in the last quarter of the game. While we are still undefeated next week's game against Epping Eastwood is a must win to keep in touch with the top 4. Coach's Best & Fairest was MATEJ SLAVICEK.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 1

What can I say; Thunder's resses are without a point after three games. Players you will need to dig deep if you are going to make any impact on the competition this season. We need to get hungrier in defence. Just running along side players is not enough, you need to put a foot in and make the tackle. WPHs scored mid way through the second half after we allowed them room to run around our defensive line. We had several chances late in the game to grab a draw. Our best effort was a diving header from MARK HOLLIDAY that was saved by their keeper. Unfortunately the loss was made worse by injuries to Pip Bingemann and Scotty Higgins, which will see them both on the side line for a number of weeks. Coach's Best & Fairest was LINTON ISTD.