



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

10-11 May 2008



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

COMMUNITY SECURITY ALERT

Since March this year, no less than 8 unlawful activities have occurred in the area of the Thornleigh West Public School car park and school entrance and Oakleigh Oval canteen and playing field in the late night, early morning of Saturdays and Sundays. Incidents include the lighting of bonfires, incineration and melt down of bins, use of fuel accelerants around the oval building, graffiti, driving of vehicles on the oval and ramming of fencing. The soccer canteen has been broken into twice (13 April & 4 May). On these occasions crow bars and sledge hammers may have been used. Headen Park Thornleigh has also been targeted.

Many of the instances indicate the potential for more serious damage to property. The level of visits to the area are consistent to weekends and of a lengthy duration from 11.00pm. The regularity indicates a high degree of blatant disregard of our community and resources and the offenders being caught will serve to a great benefit.

Hornsby Police have asked if you notice any activity or vehicles in the car park during these hours do not make an approach. Try and obtain vehicle registrations details or simply contact police on 9476 0799 for a patrol car.

Thank you
Thornleigh Thunder Soccer Club

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 10 May 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	Roselea	0	3
U9/7	Gladesville	2	4
U10/2	Macquarie	0	5
U10/6	Pacific Hills Dural	0	0
U11/3	Ryde District	6	1
U12/3	Saints United	1	0
U13/3	Epping YMCA	0	1
U14/4	West Ryde Rovers	5	2
U15/1	Macquarie Combined	1	8
U16/2	BYE		
U16/3	Pennant Hills	1	8
AA/6	Pacific Hills Dural	6	1
AA/9	Normanhurst	2	2
AA/12	Hills Hawks	4	1
AA/14	Normanhurst	1	5
AA/18	Gladesville	1	2
AA/19	West Ryde Eagles	2	1
AA/22	BYE		
O35/2	Gladesville	0	5
O35/5	Epping Eastwood	1	1
PL/Res	Roselea	2	1
PL/1 st	Roselea	1	1

NWSWS Competition – 11 May 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U13/1	Saints United	0	6
U13/2	BYE		
U14/1	West Pennant Hills	0	8
U16/1	Mt St Benedicts	3	1
U17/1	Saints United	0	2
AA/4	Normanhurst	4	1
AA/10	Flying Bats	0	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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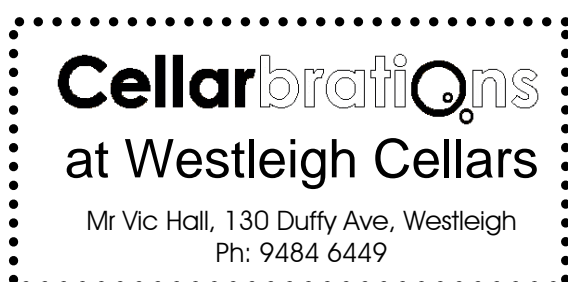
Pennant Hills Bowling Club
52 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills



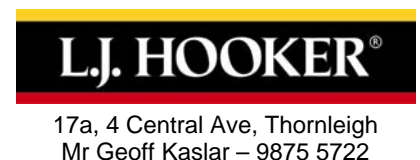
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UNDER 6 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH B vs KENTHURST A

This week saw a much improved effort by our Green Bs. We were up against a very good Kenthurst side that were well drilled and knew how to score. Bunch of 'Beckhams' really. We defended for most of the game and employed some rather interesting tactics to stop the scoring by the opposition. LIAM and CALIN were resolute in defence and once again, with limited options, LUCAS broke through for our only goal. We saw some good long kicking from TAYLOR and JACQUELINE and some great mid-field play from RILEY. MIKA also played well in defence, but really started to strike the ball more effectively and you could see he was becoming more conscious of the general play. A better game all round from our team. Their determination to see out the game was a credit.

Player of the week: MIKA DELABAUX

Merit award of the week: LIAM DRAPER

UNDER 6 RED B

THORNLEIGH vs. PENNANT HILLS

WOW, BRENDAN SMART what a game he had, he was in there defending, stopping the other team scoring several times, and also some really good attacks on the ball. MAX KING-PERRY kicked an amazing goal, from a good distance out. MYLES CAVANOUGH was all over that field attacking all the time, unfortunately he was carried off with a small knee injury near the end of the game. WILL IRISH ran himself ragged this week, kicking some awesome balls. THOMAS REILLY showed some great control on the ball moving it down the field and WILL PEARSON continued from last week's great run, with some excellent work going after the ball. These boys are continuing to surprise their crowd of adoring fans. Coach Rob Smart is really developing a good team here.



UNDER 6 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH 7 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 9

In the most exciting close game of the season so far, new skills from all of our players really started to show. The defence was solid with outstanding games by LACHLAN and ZAK. HARRY's blazing speed in getting to the ball both in attack and defence was on show and together with JOSH and JACK really moved into free space well, giving the ball carrier plenty of options. This week's best team player award went to SAM. His passing and timing was amazing with a powerful left foot shot on goal and another particularly fantastic pass setting up another goal

for HARRY. In a very close game Thornleigh managed to fight right to the end but were unable to overcome the goal deficit West Pennant Hills put on early in the 2nd half. The team is gelling better each week and really understanding the concept of teamwork which will hold them in great stead as the season progresses.

UNDER 6 YELLOW A

THORNLEIGH A vs REDFIELD LIONS

Round 5 saw our boys arrive at Ruddock Park displaying nothing short of 100% energy and enthusiasm for the game ahead. It was obvious soon after kick-off that if the boys were to get their first goal of the season it would more than likely be today. Previous matches have seen the older and more experienced opposition dominate the games but today it was more level to the boys playing ability. HARRISON HOWARD made great in-roads into the opposition's half with superb support from THOMAS BENNET. Attacks from the opposition were often thwarted by CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON and LIAM TOMIC who would clear the ball to safety. The play would again swing in the boy's favour with HARRISON DEWEY taking the ball forward and PETER BAYNIE always there to provide back-up. The second half became witness to the first goal for the boys and although it came from a kick-off it was not about to dampen the celebrations for the boys or for those watching. It was AXIE TADZIK who kicked the ball forward from the kick-off. The ball went straight through the other team and kept rolling until coming to a halt in the back of the opposition's net. So, in a game that saw group hugs, players not sure of which way they should be running, hanging onto the crossbars of goals and the half-time attraction to the pirate play set the boys (but probably more the supporters) left the park with the satisfaction and happiness of their performance and achievement. The Player of The Week certificate and trophy was presented after the game and that went to HARRY DEWEY. Well done HARRY.

UNDER 6 YELLOW B

THORNLEIGH B 1 vs KENTHURST A 2

A very evenly balanced game saw the two teams play extremely well, with our defence getting a real work out in the first half. This saw LACHLAN KELLY in the thick of it from the beginning, along with CALLUM SHELLEY they were thinking ahead and claiming some great intercepts. ISABELLE NATOLI showed some great skill and speed, her ability to keep up with the Kenthurst strikers limited their goal scoring. JASMINE WILLIAMS and JESSICA DARGAN showed some great working in the mid field, with superb co-operation. MASON SHELLEY and JACOB KALNINS shone through in the second half with their attack and defence, JACOB KALNINS scoring with a long run up the field. The team worked very well this week, less crowding of the ball, great placement and some fancy footwork (a neat attempted backwards pass by LACHLAN KELLY) kept the fans entranced.

Player of the week: LACHLAN KELLY

UNDER 7 GREEN A

THORNLEIGH 8 vs KENTHURST 1

Thornleigh started strongly with JAMES RICKWOOD and BEN COLLEY up front. BEN pushed a great pass to WILLIAM SPARGO who scored almost immediately running from a defensive position. DANIEL BIDWELL was well placed in defence blocking two Kenthurst runs. JAMES scored quickly after receiving a pass in the centre. NICK and BEN COLLEY combined well with BEN showing great footwork skills resulting in a third goal. JAKE DARGAN and AIDAN ELLIOTT took their positions on the field. JAKE quickly defended a ball off our line and made a pass to AIDAN who then passed onto BEN to score a length of the field goal. WILLIAM and DANIEL both played a great defensive game. JAMES and AIDAN combined well resulting in a goal from BEN. NICK and JAKE had a couple of close shots and were unlucky not to score. Kenthurst scored after half time and Thornleigh were quick to reply with good teamwork by JAMES and BEN. DANIEL and NICK made some great clearing kicks while JAKE showed excellent ball control to score. WILLIAM made a great run down the side line to pass to BEN who passed to AIDAN who then scored the final goal of the match. The team passed well and spread the ball over the whole field. Special mention to DANIEL who defended stoutly and to JAKE who was awarded 'player of the match' for making many decisive runs. A great team effort!

UNDER 7 RED B

THORNLEIGH 5 vs HILLS HAWKS 0

A great result for a great team who once again had a ball chasing the ball all over the field. The "Red Bees" displayed the strength of their team spirit before taking the field when a volunteer was sought to help the opposition make up a full team. It was a case of all-for-one and one-for-all when all stood firm and wanted to play together. MASON OATES then accepted the job and put in 100% during the first half coming close on several occasions to putting the opposition on the scoreboard. IRIS YUAN is going from strength to strength each week and on several occasions was instrumental in turning defence into attack. ADELAIDE GIFFNEY also gave 100% in helping the opposition after volunteering to play for them in the second half. The "Red Bees" went up 1 – 0 when LUCIEN CHAMPION won the ball and put Wednesday's dribbling practice into action by taking the ball, keeping control and putting it into the back of the net. From the start of the game OLIVIA FLACK was in the thick of the action in winning the ball back and moving the ball down towards the goal. Leaving it to the dying seconds of the match was HARRISON PATCHETT who was able to struggle through the scrum in the goal mouth to put away another fine goal. Player of the Match was without a doubt CASSANDRA HILL. There was a smile from ear to ear when Cassandra scored her first goal from outside the circle! Clearly fired up, Cassandra quickly followed up with a second goal. To make it clear to all that she knew what she was doing, the third goal was sent up and flying past all at head height to land in the back of the goal – a HATRICK!

UNDER 7 YELLOW

THORNLEIGH 2 vs HILLS HAWKS 6

In another enthralling game our boys went down to the Hills Hawks. The boys are showing a lot of skill in their game and their development since 2007 has been remarkable. JARRET WILSON again played a great game and made a few slide tackles that wouldn't be out of place in the EPL. BRADLEY HOWARD was again the last line of defence and made some telling stops and clearances. JOSHUA BENNET has really come on well and his dribbling shooting skills are going to make him a star. MORGAN HUGHES again made some great runs and long range attempts at goal that would make Beckham proud. OLIVER DEWEY has also come into his own as a striker and he picked up one of the two goals for the team, he is really playing well. As for DANIEL PATTERSON, what a star. He had an incident in the warm-up and grazed his arm, but to his credit he simply got stitched up by mom and was ready to play and what a game he had, tackles, dribbling, shots on goal - he did it all. That brings us to JORDAN-LEE BACON who is a little tiger and simply loves to tackle the big boys, he made some great tackles and the best thing is he simply loves to get involved and play with his Thornleigh soccer mates. Let's hope next week gets us back to winning ways.

UNDER 8 GOLD

THORNLEIGH 3 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 1

A solid performance from the team. It was an action packed first half early on with Thornleigh dominating field position. A pack formed near their goal with ROWAN 'Rowanaldo' WOOD emerging from the pack to score our first goal. We then continued to put pressure on the opposition with several raids ending in goal kicks to the opposition. It did not take long for one to come our way and ROWAN 'Rowanaldo' WOOD was at it again scoring our second goal. Our defence held solid with JAMES YOUNG and TIM REYNOLDS making several big kicks back up field from our back line, keeping play mainly up the opposition's end. For our 3rd goal LACHLAN HARRIS sent a super pass through to MATTHEW 'Beckham' BUTLER who duly converted. LACHLAN NEWLAND in goal had little work to do, but did well when required. Unfortunately the opposition made a raid into our half late in the first half, and an excellent shot gave LACHLAN no chance and we went into the half time break 3 to 1 up. The team was stronger in the first half, although we still had the better run of play in the second. The team may have been distracted by one of the opposition player's unusual tactic of getting down and heading the ball along the ground over the side line. It was quite a sight! DYLAN DONOVAN made some excellent runs at the defence. MATT BUTLER narrowly missed goal 3 times and combined well with ALEX WALSH and ROWAN WOOD up front. DANIEL DRAPER got up there as well, coming very close to scoring, but was denied by some good keeping. Epping Eastwood had some better field position in the second half with LOUISA LAWRENCE in goal holding them out and kicking clear when required. Our centre field - LACHLAN HARRIS, LACHLAN NEWLAND and NICK WENSLEY held together well with LACHLAN HARRIS taking out the Player of the Week award and LACHLAN NEWLAND the Skills award. ALEX WALSH won the Merit award. The passing in general seems to be coming along. The boys have been training well and it is showing - a good team effort for our second win of the season.

UNDER 8 ORANGE

THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORTH RYDE 0

Under 8 Oranges have continued their winning streak beating a physically stronger North Ryde 3-0 in a very tight and physical game. It is likely our score would have been higher if the goals were of regulation size. The boys can hold their heads up high in what was a tough and very physical game on an unusually slow pitch at Holy Cross. JAMES IRISH was awarded man of the match for his excellent tackling and attack keeping the opposition well inside their half and constantly on their toes. TRISTAN DOWNEY played a solid game in defence, holding his defensive position for most of the game and was awarded the trophy for the player who best stayed in his position. DANIEL MALLET proved invaluable in defence taking on North Ryde's larger more physical players stopping them in their tracks. JOSH WATKINS had a solid game scoring the team's three goals moving between forward and midfield. TOM SELLEN played a great game, mostly playing in defence, Tom delivered some great clearing kicks on the occasion when Nth Ryde made it over half. ALEX MURRIE and NICK HO played a great game in the mid field getting in amongst the opposition and stopping them in their tracks. ZACH MCLEOD and BRAIDEN WOLHOFF both played excellent games in goal, even though the ball for the most part was kept well inside the opposition half, both also played critical roles in the forwards unlucky not to have scored a goal. HUGH FRASER played an awesome attacking and defensive game showing excellent ball control and was able to run rings around the opposition players.

UNDER 9/3

THORNLEIGH 0 vs ROSELEA 3

In a very tense first half Thornleigh managed to keep the score nil all at half time. During the second half the opposition steamed ahead scoring 3 unanswered great goals. Once again our defence was solid with outstanding efforts from REUBEN SPARGO, BEN KNIGHT and cracker from VEERAN MUDALIAR who made countless covering saves. In the forwards to start the game this week we saw JOSH RIEDY and ZAC KARLSSON make some great play setting up some great chances with fellow forwards and halves NATHAN POLLOCK and LACHLAN DUNLOP all working well together. One of the hardest working boys on the day was our reliable goalie HARRISON DARGAN who had to fend off the attack for most of the game and did it in style. TOM KENNEDY, YASHAR ELLIIN and JOSH NATOLI roamed the mid field and offered plenty of great chances up front in attack and defended their hearts out with the backs. Our "Man of the Match" award this week went to HARRISON DAVEY who defended tirelessly, never giving up and putting in some crunching tackles along the way. Well done team.



UNDER 11/3

THORNLEIGH 6 vs RYDE DISTRICT 1

The U11/3s scored one of the fastest goals this year when SAM put the ball in the back of the net in approx the second minute of the game. The match then settled down into the traditional arm wrestle for the next 10 minutes. BENM, DANIEL, RYAN, BENS and MARK all played excellent soccer with backing up the boys who scored the goals. Ryde had some good possession and field placement, which they converted to lock the scores at 1-all. Thornleigh, still on a high from last week's game decided that the coach didn't need any more nerves this time and they set about playing some great soccer and in just a manner of minutes Thornleigh had taken the lead to 3-1 though goals to SLADE and MITCHELL and that is how we finished the first half and NATHAN as Goal Keeper did not see much action. The second half Thornleigh again played some terrific soccer. The players were looking at who they were going to pass to and didn't rush their passes. Midway through the second half all you could see is Gold and Blue jerseys, as the team seemed to be everywhere, ANDREW, MAX and JASON owned the middle of the field, dominating the opposition. This pressure saw goals to SAM for his second and CALLUM, while Ryde scored an own goal. Full credit to Ryde who didn't give up and late in the 2nd half made some breaks and put pressure on our defence and goalie who were able to defuse these raids. Another great team effort for the U11/3s..well done Team!

UNDER 12/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs SAINTS UNITED 0

This was another great team performance by the Thunder Threes. It took a long time to get the winning goal as the match was a very even affair but the wait was worth it. TOM L dumped a trademark corner into the box and after a goal mouth scramble NICK put away the winner. Prior to the goal we saw some wonderful work in the first half from NICK and JULIAN up front with both showing some great touches and interplays. JAY was full of running and both HOLLY and TAYLA did lots of good work in midfield. TAYLA had the play of the first half with a "Falcon" as the opposing goal keeper put up a bomb which hit TAYLA on the head as she headed back to half way. On a day where our defence was genuinely tested IZAACK stood head and shoulders above the pack closing down many attacking raids with calm play and often setting another of the Threes loose to attack. We welcomed JOSH back from Europe and he also slotted back in to the defence as if he had never been away. MITCH had a great game in goal in the first half and kept a clean sheet where he could easily have conceded at least one goal had he not been fully on the job. By rights we should have won this game by more than a single goal as we peppered Saints goal in the second half. There will be other days this season where we play like this and put away five. Today we just could not get the shots in the right place.

UNDER 13/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 0 vs SAINTS UNITED 6

Our first half was arguably our best game of the season, with the girls working well together, and our defence putting on an impressive display to finish at 1-0 down. REBEKA FIELD worked overtime in goals making a stack of saves and backing them up with good clearing kicks, while DANI BROWN once

again proved an absolute powerhouse. KATHERINE and RACHEL ran themselves to a standstill, cutting off a voracious Saints attack, while BECKY FOWLER was very solid on our left flank managing to shut down the Saints break-away forward on countless occasions. ELISE had another really solid game, and constantly demonstrated her versatility in moving from defence to attack and back again as we adjusted the line up. ALANA WILLIS led the Thunderette attack well, sending some booming kicks at the goals, and was unlucky not to score a few points (rotten goalpost needed to be about an inch narrower, and the goalie about an inch shorter!). She was ably supported by BETH, JESS S, SOPHIE and JESS P, who were aggressive in attack, but just couldn't quite break through the Saints' defence. JAS, JESS P and JOEY were tireless in the midfields, and clocked up kilometres on the field today. In the second half we just didn't quite co-ordinate things as well. SOPHIE moved to goals and was constantly under pressure but made a huge number of saves, while our tiring Thunderettes made a few minor errors, which Saints unfortunately ruthlessly capitalised on. That said, the Saints coach took the time at the end of the game to come over and compliment our backs and two goalies, and indicated that he felt the scoreline didn't reflect the massive effort the Thunderettes had put in – which made us feel a little better, but doesn't actually change the scoreline at all.... Training this week will focus on ball skills and team work. Players of the Match: Coach's Choice DANI, RACHEL, KATHERINE, ELISE; Players Choice: ALANA WILLIS.

UNDER 14/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 8



A great Mothers' Day outing had by all. The opposition was a step above our team in terms of experience and skill, hence the score line, but our girls were not perturbed and played with great determination eventually coming off the field with a smile and a laugh. Of course they know they had won the Moral fight with an 11-8 victory. Morals were awarded for heads and the odd excursion into the opposition's half. Double Moral points awarded to special saves by our keepers. Special mention to our 3 ring-ins – KATHERINE MEIKLE, RACHAEL TOMPKINS and DANI BROWN who played comfortably in the higher age group. They helped in defence exactly where we needed it. Well done to our full-backs who did most of the work this game. LAUREN BONNER has improved out of sight and is able to keep her opponent marked. BRITTANY KNIGHT was centre back clearing the ball. She also had a good game as goalie in the 2nd half. ALYCE TOMPKINS had a spark of determination that scared the opposition declaring ownership of the ball – keep it up ALYCE. LISA PHILLIPS showed a tonne of courage to mark players twice her size, literally. In the centre, JESSICA HARRIS is starting to build some confidence and even dribbled the ball. SAMANTHA TRENAMAN had a sensational game in goals in the 1st half making a heap of saves and stopped several missile shots. Eventually SAMMY had to retire because of a knee injury – get better SAMMY. EMILIE LOWE continues to dominate in the centre holding the ball, tackling and running up the middle. TAYLOR LANGHAM was kept busy in the midfield playing more of a defensive role. GEORGIA DAVIS goes for all opportunities covering a huge area and placing a lot of pressure on their defence with her challenges. Well done Georgia. TESS SANT made a few sprints and some passes in the middle to feed the attack. And.....(drum role maestro).....the Player's player goes to EMILLIE LOWE! Keep it up girls, this season you are continuing to develop and improve.

UNDER 14/4

THORNLEIGH 5 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 2

The ball seemed even wetter and even more slippery than usual this Saturday, but Thunder took the conditions in their stride. The team went on the attack from the start and MICHAEL G scored a goal resulting from a great team effort when the WRR goalie left the goalmouth. MICHAEL G's speed took the goalie by surprise ~ 1-0 to us. Another goal was scored by MICHAEL G from a corner and resulted from some good passing. WILL was unlucky with an attempt at goal. The first half of the game saw Thunder keeping up the attack and at the break we led 2-0. JONNO put his body on the line a number of times during the game with some spectacular tackles. The second half of the game saw some great defence by TIM and some great saves by our goalie XAVIER. There were two fantastic goal attempts by MICHAEL B and ALEX A. MICHAEL G scored another great goal from a corner, then TIM who moved up the front from his normal position in the backs used his speed and ball control to score a fantastic goal. WRR went on the attack and scored but NATHAN quickly answered that with a goal from midfield. XAVIER came out of goals for a run and ALEX C replaced him. Unfortunately for ALEX C, WRR hadn't given up and went on the attack, resulting in a great goal which soared over ALEX'S head. All in all it was a great game to watch. Neither team gave up and fought hard to the full time whistle. A great result boys!

UNDER 15/1

THORNLEIGH 1 vs MACQUARIE DRAGONS 8

The game started with both teams having equal possession, slowly the boys began to get more of the ball, giving us a couple of early attempts. When Macquarie did make breaks our defence of, ZACK, MATT and LACH held. 15 minutes in to the game Thornleigh made a break giving MICHAEL the chance he needed, putting it into the net. A lucky break by Macquarie and a bad bounce gave them the equalizer and only a few minutes later Macquarie scored again. With only a few minutes left in the first half LEROY, KEL and RICKY combined and made a couple attempts at goal but were unsuccessful. LEROY started the second half with a great long shot at goal, but Macquarie got away with the ball and they scored again. From then on Thornleigh tried hard to stop the flow of Macquarie goals, but even with NIC (V), ED, HARRY and LACH throwing themselves (a little too hard sometimes) into defence and with all of NIC'S (F) hard work Macquarie continued to score. A corner and the occasional break by Thornleigh gave as a slim hope of a better finish but in the end they were unable to score again. Well played boys.

UNDER 16/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 3 vs MT ST BENEDICT 1

The gamble we took in accepting 16 players for this team paid off today with 4 injuries and one no-show leaving a bare 11 for this match. Commiserations to DANI CHARARA who will be out for the season with a back injury, ANNALESE SMITH who will be out for at least 5 weeks with an ankle injury and CHLOE BERESFORD who will be out for some time with a fractured leg. Also ARIELLE O'NEILL was out injured today. The Thunderettes started off slowly, possibly a little tired after getting up early to prepare their Mums' breakfasts??? Whilst

they had the measure of their opponents there was little spark in the team, except for COURTNEY BLANCH who is a human dynamo and LUCY JONES when she was fed the ball to go on the attack. At the 10-minute mark DANI COOK finished off a LUCY JONES corner by popping a loose ball across the line, for a 1-nil lead, which remained the score line till the half time whistle. RANI PAII was on the move today, taking some balls from deep in defence and slicing up the wings, as well as taking a couple of towering free kicks and two great shots on goal one finding the post. Little Miss Dependable BEC WICKHAM continually frustrated the MSB attack by shutting their main threat time and time again.

Half time saw coach Denyer talking up the players and issuing instructions for a goal in the first 10 minutes. MADDIE BROWN donned the keeper's jersey to give FIONA SPARKES a run in mid-field for the second half. The pep talk appeared to work as the girls dutifully put the ball into the MSB net after only 6 minutes, DANI WALSH pouncing on a through ball to do the job. Whilst most of the game was played in the opposition half our shots on goal didn't find their mark. Then at 25 minutes LUCY JONES was making one of her trademark runs when she was shoulder-charged out, taking a heavy tumble hitting her head and very shaken, coming off with a sore neck and leg. The ensuing yellow card was definitely too light in colour in the opinion of the Thunder supporters, but Lucy recovered to bravely take the field again after 5 minutes. Next Dani Walsh was barrelling in the penalty box, but LUCY calmly took the penalty to put us 3 up.

FIONA SPARKES had a blinder in mid-field with well directed passes and good positioning, narrowly missing a goal but finding the top rail on one occasion – now presenting Craig and Assistant Coach MEL D'ARCHY with a new dilemma on whether to put her in goals or on the field.

The late MSB goal had no bearing on the final result. A solid result with no subs today girls, but you'll need to train harder and play more aggressively if you want a tilt at the premiership.

ALL AGE/6

THORNLEIGH 6 vs PACIFIC HILLS DURAL 1

Crack out the whips and leather corsets because we are absolutely dominating at the moment. 15 goals for and only 1 against in 2 matches is hopefully striking fear into our opponents' hearts when they check out our results on the GHFA web page. I've been running out of superlatives lately so I bought a new thesaurus this week and I can happily say that our performance this weekend was really, really, really... good. Admittedly we were asleep at the kick-off and went behind after only a minute and a half but that did slap us into action and we were up 3-1 before 10 minutes of the game had gone and things were starting to look like they could get out of hand. Thankfully sanity prevailed and things calmed down a bit. We had proved our point to Pacific Hills and showed that we were going to be anything but Christian today. TIM (Timi-Goal) MORISON netted a deuce while MURRAY GRAVES, RICHARD HULOWATYI, ROSS EDWARDS and ANDY BOUGHTON all got their names on the score sheet. Credit too for our results lately must go to our defenders BENTON JOHNSON, GREG RUSTON, SIMON WATERHOUSE and man of the match JAMES RODGER. Also earning capital letters were the extremely impressive after a lengthy and rain affected suspension ROB ZWATRZKA and midfield battler DAVE POWER. So the goal average is looking good but we cannot let that get to our heads. An opponent given no respect is the most dangerous one of all. There is no room for complacency in this competition. Next week we must go out there and earn the same result, not expect it. That's it for this week because I'm all out of clichés.

ALL AGE/19

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST RYDE EAGLES 1

This was a really good win by the boys against a very good Eagles team. We knew coming into the game that it would be a tight one and we had trained really well during the week and were confident that if we played to our game plan that we could come out on top.

The first half was a real tussle as each side tried to dominate the other, but gradually Thunder started to get on top as we made repeated raids down the flanks and pressured the West Ryde defence with our wide passing game and speed to the ball. We were dominating the opposition across the park and were very unlucky by this stage of the game not to have been in front as ROLY hit the woodwork on two occasions with great strikes that deserved a better result. Eagles attacked our line at every opportunity and our keeper PETER saved a certain goal with a great effort.

We came in at half time nil all and a little frustrated that we had not secured a lead, after a good team talk we were convinced that we had the measure of the West Ryde team and we came out for the second half full of confidence of going on with the job. The game settled into the same pattern of us attacking and the Eagles counter attacking and during this time the opposition put one past us and this setback put us onto the back foot.

This goal gave Ryde a big confidence boost and they visibly lifted their game, but our team does not give in easily and we showed true Thunder spirit by clawing back the advantage as after a great raid down the flanks DAVE broke free and looked to score when he was taken out by an Eagles defender. We were awarded a penalty on the spot much to the opposition's vocal disapproval as PAUL calmly stepped up and put it away. It was now game on and we relentlessly attacked the Ryde goal mouth and were rewarded with another goal as a cross from DAVE found a flying ROLY who made no mistake and slotted home a beauty. There was no way that after that great goal we were going to surrender our lead and we kept up the pressure to the final whistle with West Ryde having a player sent off for rough play as they realised that the game was slipping away from them. This was a great win by the team and showed that we can keep our cool and perform under pressure.

At the back our defensive team led by keeper PETER was LIAM, DESHAN, MATT, CHRIS and EDDY who kept the opposition in check while the midfielders TERRY, ANDY, HAYDEN, BOSSY, DAVE, PAUL, RAK, controlled the middle of the park and up front MARC and ROLY had strong games.

Well done boys. We remain undefeated and on top of the table and as long as we stay focused and work hard we have a good chance of staying there.

Match points

Chris Brown	2 points
Roland Leech	2 points
Terence Sparkes	1 point
Deshan Govender	1 point

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ROSELEA 1

What should have been a win for Thunder turned into a lucky escape. Roselea had more shots on goal than Thunder in the first half and were unlucky not to go to half time in front. Roselea's main striker was proving difficult to contain, his turning on the ball was providing many headaches for our defenders. Roselea opened the scoring mid way through the second half following an ill disciplined tackle by one of our players. From the resultant free kick Roselea scored when our defenders failed to clear the ball. Thunder struck back when BEN PIKE scored from a corner, but we never reached top gear during the remainder of the game. The only win we had was the yellow card tally, Thunder 5: Roselea 1. MICHAEL PILKINGTON injected some variety into our play with a number of good runs from full back while MATEJ SLAVICEK was a workhorse in defence. Coach's Best & Fairest was TIM HILL. Next week we take on St Andrews at Eastwood Oval.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

THORNLEIGH 2 vs ROSELEA 1

The drought has broken, no it wasn't raining at Oakleigh Oval, but it was the young gun's first win of the season. After conceding the first goal 15 minutes into the game, they dug deep to completely outplay Roselea for the balance of the game. Thunder had more shots, than at the Hornsby rifle range, but could not find the bull's-eye. It was left to LINTON ISTED to score our first goal 40 minutes into the second half. This sparked Thunder and they took the lead 3 minutes later when MARK HOLLIDAY drilled a screamer from about 30 metres out into the top right corner; the keeper had no chance of saving this one. OWEN LANSLEY played his best games of the season after recovering from a head clash early in the first half. It was also a winning return for JASON HOWELL who played his first game of the season. A big thank you to AA12 stand-in keeper OMAR BUCKLEY who made some great saves during the game. Congratulations to all players on this well deserved victory. Coach's Best & Fairest was LINTON ISTED.