



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

19-20 July 2008



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well we have reached pretty much the end of the regular season. The girls/women will commence their playoffs and round robin part of the season with the GHFA competitors following a week later. The committee wishes everyone the best of luck over the remaining weeks.

Congratulations to the men's All Age 19 team that secured themselves as Premiers for the season with a win over Glenhaven on Sunday. Quite a number of our teams are well placed in both Competitions and we will have record numbers competing in the play offs. Let's hope the good weather holds and we can complete the season without further delays.

Please note in your diaries September 27 which will be our end of year function in which we will incorporate our Senior Presentations into the evening. It should be a great night as usual with Thornleigh Primary School hall the venue, so that we can fit just about everyone who may be interested in attending.

Good luck to our Premier League team that are in the thick of the fight to finish in the top four. It's been a long wait and we know you can do it, so don't let up now!

Let's all keep things humming along to the end of the season.

Yours in commitment

Rob Roberts

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 19 July 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	Glenhaven	0	2
U9/7	Ararat	0	2
U10/2	Epping Eastwood	2	4
U10/6	Ryde District	2	0
U11/3	Forfeit by Ravens		
U12/3	BYE		
U13/3	Pacific Hills	0	10
U14/4	BYE		
U15/1	Kenthurst	3	4
U16/2	West Pennant Hills	1	0
U16/3	Forfeit by Thornleigh		
AA/6	Epping Eastwood	1	0
AA/6	Epping Eastwood – 20/7	3	0
AA/9	Macquarie Combined	2	3
AA/12	Holy Cross College	4	1
AA/14	Epping Eastwood	0	13
AA/18	West Pennant Hills	3	6
AA/19	Glenhaven	4	1
AA/22	West Pennant Hills	3	6
O35/2	West Pennant Hills	2	3
O35/5	All Saints	3	1
PL/Res	North Epping Rangers	2	3
PL/1 st	North Epping Rangers	2	3

NWSWS Competition – 20 July 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U13/2 (6)	Roselea	1	1
U13/2 (7)	Ravens	3	2
U14/2	Normanhurst	1	1
U16/1	Normanhurst	0	4
U17/1	Wenona	9	0
AA/4	Ravens	2	1
AA/10	Gladesville	1	4



SEASON SOCIAL NIGHT

Players, Parents, Family and Friends of Thunder

START ORGANISING YOUR GROUP TABLE.
TEAMS FROM UNDER 6 – 35, ALL AGE & GIRLS TEAMS.

**Saturday 27 September 2008
at 7.30pm**

at
Thornleigh West Public School Hall

What to expect:

- Gourmet food provided by Crown Catering (BYOG)
 - Heaps of fun
- Sporting attire or Olympic Nation Theme - Optional
 - Heaps of laughs
 - Table Trivia, Celebrities, Auctions, Prizes
 - Heaps of activity
 - Annual Thornleigh Soccer Club Awards
 - A kid-free night and walk home
 - Live Band, Live Compere, Live Wires.
- Tickets to sell quickly. Book early for 1 or more.

Pre Book Tickets:

Graeme	0419 416 628	Seniors
Craig	0425 336 560	Under 9 – 17
Neil	0408 992 835	Mini 6 – 8

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.

MAJOR SPONSOR

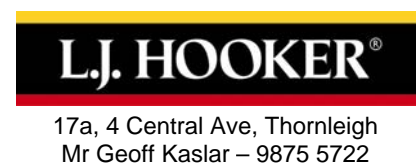
Pennant Hills Bowling Club
52 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSOR



UNDER 6 GREEN A

THORNLEIGH A vs NORMANHURST A

Back on home turf, albeit we were the away team against Normanhurst this week. For a while it looked like practice was all we were going to have, but when 3 opposition turned up and a 'spare' from another team was acquired, we were away. I think the week off added to the boys' enthusiasm, but not necessarily to their overall play early on. We had plenty of eager runners and chasers, and some good tackling (especially from TIMON who is the new MARK in the second part of the season), but we went more sideways than forwards. After a while the team settled down, MITCHELL seemed to be everywhere on the field, and some near misses from ASHLEY were followed by one 'thumper' on target. MARK continues his self-evolving into a solid attacker player, and HARRY (who obviously missed SEAN) was right in the centre of things all game. RAAJ flew down both sides of the pitch in attack, and deserved his encouragement award this week.

Player of the Match – ASHLEY
Encouragement Award – RAAJ

UNDER 6 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH vs NORMANHURST

Saturday morning brought a very chilly start to the day and it seemed we would need some time to warm up. Not so! Within 10 seconds of kick off, LIAM drilled our first goal into the back of the net. The opposition soon settled and tested our defence on several occasions; RILEY once again stoutly defending. Some good striking in the first half by JACQUELINE saw the ball get past a few midfielders and she followed up by netting our second goal. Our kick offs were great and missed the goal by inches several times. TAYLOR started the 2nd half with some enthusiastic runs upfield, one leading to both LUCAS and LIAM sharing a run, LIAM finally scoring his second goal. Fantastic defending by MIKA kept many scoring chances out of our net. In the end, we saw a 'cluster' forming and for the last few minutes of the game no side made a break. Tough, hard, shin-bashing football. Great stuff. Our Green B's came off tired but should be happy with a great effort.

Player of the week : JACQUELINE NOTLEY-RUMBENS
Merit award of the week : MIKA DELEBAUX/RILEY DONOVAN



UNDER 6 RED B

THORNLEIGH B vs WEST PENNANT HILLS CHERRYBROOK C

Wow, what an exciting game against West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook C. The first score of the game was made by the other team in our goal, so she was given a big cheer by Red B. But then the crowd really went wild, coach ROB SMART jumping high in the air, thanks to THOMAS REILLY's excellent manoeuvring of the ball and a big kick into goal. This was the first of many goals to come for Red B. MYLES CAVANOUGH and CHARBEL SOMANI also scored beautiful goals, both running the ball down the field with some great kicks straight into goal. MAX KING-PERRY had a great shot at goal, unfortunately hitting the edge of the goal, bouncing off, but this set up the ball for CHARBEL SOMANI to score for the second time. Lots of great defence by WILL PEARSON and BRENDAN SMART helped keep WPH C from scoring much, with some great kicks away from their goal. Coach ROB SMART was thrilled by the boys play.



UNDER 6 YELLOW B

THORNLEIGH B 10 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 2

Wow, what a game we had this week! We are really starting to work as a team in the Yellow Bs, fabulous ball handling, passing and even sharing! We have watched this team go from strength to strength, and this week had to be a highlight. The score line doesn't really reflect the evenness of the game. With JASMINE WILLIAMS enjoying the sun and sand we were one down, but that didn't tire the team. This week we saw some strong attacking play by LACHLAN KELLY, who also managed to deflect some sure fire goals. MASON SHELLEY was everywhere all at once, attacking, defending and stealing. JACOB KALNINS was in the thick of it, and in the middle of a few show stopping tackles, his runs at goal getting the team going. ISABELLE NATOLI gave us a great game working in attack and defence and showing some fantastic team playing. JESSICA DARGAN had a quite game mid field but was always there to support her team mates. CALLUM SHELLEY showed some fancy footwork, especially in the second half, he was always there to return the ball, prompting lots of attacking runs. Keep it up!

Player of the week: ISABELLE NATOLI

UNDER 8 ORANGE

THORNLEIGH 7 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 0

U8 Orange played the Gladesville Ravens this week, with three players down the team was going to be up for a tough time. At the end of the game we came out triumphant in a 7-0 victory with great goals from DANIEL SUNNOCK(1), JOSHUA WATKINS (4) and Man of the Match ALEX MURRIE (2). ALEX played a sensational game, he right amongst the action playing in the forwards, showing some excellent ball skills and determination in his play. TRISTAN DOWNEY, received the award for best player in position showing versatility moving between mid field and defensive position and getting amongst the play.

TOM SELLEN and NICK HO played excellent games in defence in the first half and in the forwards in the second, both demonstrating their powerful kicking and speed. BRAIDEN WOLHOFF also showed fine form with some excellent goal keeping and near misses at Goal. ZACH MCLEOD played a brilliant first half in goals and showed excellent attacking play in the second half, he was unlucky not to have scored a goal. JOSHUA WATKINS was unlucky not have scored more goals except for the stubborn defence of the Ravens. The Team consistently kept the ball out of it's own half and for the most of the game kept the Ravens solidly on their back foot, showing great team work and determination.

The boys are really using the skills they have learnt at training and showing true team spirit with a lot more passing and calling out on the field. Well Done U8 Orange!

UNDER 9/3

THORNLEIGH 0 vs GLENHAVEN 2

In a tough match we faced the No 2 on the table and they were just too good for us on the day. The game started at a fierce pace and we really did look like we had the upper hand. Our backs were always under heaps of pressure but between REUBEN SPARGO, BEN KNIGHT and HARRISON DAVEY the opposition still had their work cut out for them because our defense was excellent. The mid field saw JOSH NATOLI and NATH POLLOCK work well together on the right and YASHAR ELLIIN and VEERAN MUDALIAR on the left. This foursome with our roving sweeper TOM KENNEDY played well supporting their backs and trying to break the opposing defence. Up front this week TOM McDOWALL and JOSH REIDY made some great breaks and narrowly missed the few opportunities that their defense gave us. Fortunately this game we had the help of LUKE FOSTER and TRISTAN FISHER who both had great games LUKE up front creating lots of opportunities and TRISTEN helping out big time in the defense. Our man of the match this week went to our goalie HARRISON DARGAN who had a ripper attacking every ball and player that came his way. Well done boys.



UNDER 13/2 GIRLS (6)

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ROSELEA 1

The Thunderettes went into this game with the accolade of being the only team top-placed Roselea had not beaten this season - and it was something the girls were determined to keep intact. Fired up, Roselea came out hard from the kick off, driving the ball into our defensive line, who quickly cleared the ball back down field to get the game flowing in our direction. ALANA led our attack, and was supported well by BEK with some thundering kicks towards goal, then BETH, with JESS S holding the right side. JOEY, in the midfields, had a field day - vigorously pursuing the ball and outfoxing the Roselea defence - before she was cleaned up twice by the same Roselea player and finished the game a little bruised, grazed, and hobbling, but still determined to stay on the field. Taking on board the lessons learned last time we played Roselea, RACHEL, KATHERINE, DANI, BETH and BEK virtually marked their powerhouses - number 8 and 15 - out of the game, and on the few occasions they did manage to slip through our backs teamed up strongly to pursue them in unison and completely shut them down, while SOPHIE did a great job protecting the goals. An unfortunate lapse on a corner in the first half saw Roselea push one through - much to angst of COACH JAYE.

The second half saw renewed determination from the Thunderettes. ELISE at centre midfield suddenly found a gear called "determination+++", which saw her make some great plays, have a few runs at the goals, and put in some great chase-downs; while JAS was having a positive ball at right midfield, enthusiastically charging into attack, then getting back to make some great saving tackles. SOPHIE had been unleashed into the front line, and connected well with ALANA, ELISE and JESS to threaten the Roselea goals time and again - and once again it was the goal post that most frustratingly thwarted our attempts to push one past the goalie. But it was our backline who were the real difference in the game. The savage Roselea attack continued to be defused, with the ball being positively powered back downfield over the heads of the midfields by brilliant kicking from KATHERINE, RACHEL, DANI and BEK in goals. And then the unthinkable happened..... a ball rebounded into the arm of one of our players in front of goals, and Roselea suddenly had a direct penalty and the chance to push the score out to 2 nil.... it just didn't seem fair. And then BEK FIELD and the soccer gods smiled on us. With split second timing BEK managed to get her foot to the ball which rebounded back at the kicker, and we somehow ended up with a free kick out of it. Blasting the ball back into attack, ELISE was unlucky not to score, but ended up with a corner. We'd spent much of the game trying to decide when we should unleash RACHEL into the attack and figured the corner was as good a time as any, which was fortunate, as she connected with the cross and boomed one into the back of the net.... much to the joy of COACH JAYE who did an interesting dance on the field in celebration.

The final 15 minutes of the game was a positive heart-stopper, as both teams vigorously attacked and defended. Chances to us were followed up by quick breaks by Roselea, but again our backline showed grit and determination to keep the attack out. The final whistle was oh so sweet, and COACH JAYE was so proud we thought he was going to cry. Player of the Match: RACHEL TOMPKINS.

UNDER 13/2 GIRLS (7)

THORNLEIGH 3 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 2

What a great win for the girls. From the very start they were hungry for goals and our Player of the Match HANNAH TAYLOR bagged herself a hat trick of them. What was great to see was that she was not alone in wanting to score goals with KIRA MILLER having three attempts in the first five minutes and EMMA FERGUSON making some sensational runs to have a few goes at the nets. TAHLIA LANG produced the big kicks that gave us the through-balls that we sorely needed and the Ravens picked up on this and changed their strategy in the second half purely to stop TAHLIA. DIANA CAVILL got over her early season jitters and started taking on some of the bigger girls (pretty much the whole team) and showed some fantastic ball passing. Looking up and passing correctly was a hallmark of this game with SOPHIE DENCH receiving some great targeted passes from LAURA BRAMWELL and HANNAH CRANE. HANNAH CRANE did a sensational job of goalie in the first half and really showed her improved knowledge of the position. Our super sub CLAUDIA NITSCHKE came from a late start and transferred an amazing amount of energy to the team, CLAIRE NEWLAND also showed this level of energy with some blistering runs down the sideline and was instantly capable of turning around in defence. The defence was also impressive with ANNA BRAMWELL showing why we rely on her so much, her speed and ability to be everywhere is a credit to her team spirit. We cant fail to mention ELLEN BOUCHER who literally threw her body on the line to save a goal and received a black eye for her troubles. The way the girls came together as a team in both supporting each other and turning to attack is a great testament to how far they have come this year. Congratulations girls you are all superstars.

UNDER 13/3

THORNLEIGH 0 vs PACIFIC HILLS 10

Although the opposition outclassed us in most aspects of the game, the team never gave up on their spirit to do their best. Although Thornleigh did not score any goals we had quite a number of good attempts at goal and saw some good midfield play by MATTHEW FORD, some fantastic solo runs by JACOB KOWALSKI and JACK ANGEL and some good action as sweeper by DOMINIC BORG. SAM LANE was instrumental in one of the brilliant forward runs up the middle of the field while OLIVER JUDSON played his usual 'thinking mans' game by passing the ball with purpose and intent. Overall it can be said that all players tried their best, but with a little more concentration on sticking to their positions and more thought on creating opportunities the U13's are capable of more.



UNDER 14/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORMANHURST 1



Confusion reined supreme with a mix up with the venue. However we eventually re-assembled at the right field to face up to a fully equipped Normanhurst squad. With only 10 players, a defensive strategy was in order. Our backs were constantly marking and repelling their attacks. Whist Normanhurst did score from a speculative shot that caught our goalie by surprise they struggled to mount any serious attack there after. But despite being one player down Thornleigh appeared to be

the team with the extra girl. Hungry for the ball and not letting NORMANHURST have any run of play. It was exciting to see our midfield being able to punch through to the Normanhurst defences no less that a dozen times for run-away attacks. With GEORGIA making half field runs and shots that were either saved by the keeper or narrowly missing their mark. All our full-backs deserve a mention with ALISSIA, BRITTANY, LISA and ALYCE. They were our heroes because they did the basics extremely well. Their marking was consistent and assertive. ALISSIA'S goal kicks were tremendous. In mid-field we had TESS feeding the ball forward and SHELBY holding the centre creating an impenetrable road block. JESS continually challenging for the ball and SYLVIA made several breaking runs and timely crosses. SAMMIE also kept nicking the ball from NORMO and feeding up the left. Last but not least we saw GEORGIA holding the forward line by herself. She beat her mark and made several half field runs being very unlucky not to score at least 3 times. The team had a resounding moral victory. The Player's Player was awarded to GEORGIA DAVIS. Well done team – your courage and hard work was inspiring.

UNDER 15/1

KENTHURST 4 vs THORNLEIGH 3

From the start of the game it looked like this was going to be very close. An early attack from Kenthurst brought the boys into action, our defence was strong, RIKKI, SAMID, ED, MATT, BEN and HARRY constantly getting the ball to the forwards, giving ZACH, LACH and LEROY some early attempts at goal. Unfortunately with all the pressure Kenthurst were able to score twice at the end of the first half.

In the second half Kenthurst come out hoping to continuous adding to their score. Some great play by Michael gave LACH the change to score, shortly followed by a goal from KEL. The boys kept the pressure on with a couple more attempts but unfortunately it was Kenthurst who scored the next two goals, some great saves by NIC V kept the score within Thornleigh's grasp. A penalty to us gave LEROY his chance to score and the final minutes were sent trying to get the equaliser, this was not to be. Well done boys, a great game.

UNDER 16/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORMANHURST 4

In the first round against Normanhurst the Girl Thunders went down 6-2; today they finished up with the same goal difference at 4-0 down. But this time both teams looked a little less urgent on the ball and the match was played at a more leisurely pace – at least that's what it looked like from the sideline, the girls might think differently!

Craig mixed up positions for the first half, since our girls had already achieved their aim of finishing in the top four and this match was essentially a dead rubber from our perspective. From the striker position, DANI CHARARA had some long shots on goal which were snapped up by the Normo keeper. The girls generally held the game well, however in the second last minute of the first half the Normo attack found the net.

The second half saw some good individual football but there was still some serious holding off from play at critical stages which, when combined with skilled Normo attack resulted in 3 more goals against us. EMMA FORD made some trademark runs from mid-field, and DANI CHARARA was strong back in her usual full back position, as was RANI PAI. A great running attack by ANNALESE SMITH almost resulted in a Thunder goal, as did a brilliantly angled cross from LUCY JONES which was only saved by an outstretched Normo keeper deflecting the ball over the bar.

If nothing else, today's match showed that Normo would have been beatable if our girls were playing at their best.

For the round robin matches, girls, you need to train hard and go into the matches with that COURTNEY BLANCH-like fire in the belly and you will give this Championship a real shake.

UNDER 16/2

THORNLEIGH 1 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

Last time we played them they beat us 6-0. The new formation which emerged in response to this defeat seems to be working well and this time we beat them 1-0. MICHAEL, ANDREW and JOEY were solid in defence as usual, and JOHN made great saves under pressure.

The first half ended with the score NIL-all and the team got a stirring half time speech from CHRIS, as CRAIG was away. BEN had some good runs up the sideline but was shut down too quickly by the opposition defence. RYAN put in 100% as usual, and WAZZA played on both wings and set up some excellent chances.

PITCH, STEVE and DAVE had a hard game and were told to play the ball wide. Our goal came when PITCH was taken out. The resulting free kick, taken by PITCH, was a superb ball which MATT got his head onto, to put into the back of the net. Our strikers, HARRY, MATT and JORDAN had a hard, but quiet game, as the WPH defensive line was very tight.

Overall an excellent result and we look forward to our next encounter with this team.



ALL AGE/6

THORNLEIGH 1 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 0 - 19 July

In the first fixture of the double header weekend the Thunder came out narrow victors over a fiery side that acted more like their shoe size than their age. They certainly looked old enough to know better... but stupid enough not to. After a bright start to the game by the Thunder TIM MORISON opened the scoring in the 5th minute after a deft flick from PAT CHAPMAN saw Timi-Goal through to net his ninth of the season. There were several more chances that followed quickly however the Epping Eastwood net lived a charmed life as someone had obviously put a gypsy curse on us as surely no team could miss an open goal from six yards out more than once, could they? Certainly not three or four. The offenders shall remain nameless but they know who they are. This lack of goals saw us lose some of our momentum as we struggled to keep control of things for the rest of the half but some fine defensive work saw us head into the break with lead intact. The second half was not any prettier. Once again we failed to control the midfield causing us problems in both defence and attack. There were the odd flashes of brilliance and we were still creating chances, we just weren't taking them. That we managed to hang on for the win was somewhat of a relief. Standout performances of the match came from GREG RUSTON, JAMES RODGER, BENTON JOHNSON and SIMON WATERHOUSE, who are all defenders so you can tell what kind of match it was, as well as returning keeper MARK DENNIS who's work rate was rather more than he wanted. It wasn't pretty but we got the three points and that's all that mattered in the end, however definite improvements needed to made if we were to beat them on Sunday...

THORNLEIGH 3 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 0 - 20 July

...And improve we did. A much better all round performance saw us easy victors over the same Epping Eastwood side who were still acting their shoe size but the fieriness had been replaced by whingeing. They must have mistaken their Nurofens for Naprogesic. Actually I feel I'm being derogatory to women here as not even any of the Thunder WAGS complain that much... and knowing the Thunder boys they've got plenty to complain about! But finally everything gelled for the Thunder. The width was being used, balls were being passed to feet or into space and even backwards! It's only taken thirteen games but we've finally got the idea. Hallelujah! ROSS EDWARDS opened the scoring in the eighteenth minute, getting that last vital touch to put it over the line from TIM MORISON'S pin point cross. Timi-Goal then got one himself calmly slotting home the penalty that resulted from PAT CHAPMAN being cynically hacked down in the box. MURRAY GRAVES added a third but three minutes later after a superb individual effort from the burly speedster. So a 3-0 lead at the break and things were looking good for the Thunder. It was a little disappointing that we couldn't increase our lead in the second half but since we put our foes to the sword in the first half we were just taking it easy, right fellas? Hardly, we peppered the Epping Eastwood goal but their keeper played a blinder keeping the score respectable for them. It did lead to some rather amusing heckling from the opposition supporters but with a lack of a scoreboard to point at we just had to make do with that warm feeling you get inside from beating someone who thinks they're better than you... but clearly aren't. Mmm... satisfying. Superb performances all round but top marks to BENTON JOHNSON and SIMON WATERHOUSE for not knowing the meaning of the word pain, RICHARD HULOWATYI and ANDREW LISCOE sparking the midfield and a simply inspired performance from ANDREW WAGG.

So to sum up the weekend, job done. We took all six points we needed and the sun proves it does shine on a Jack Russell pups tail (thanks for cheering us on Tiger) some days with other results going our way and we now sit one solitary little point behind league leaders Beecroft, who in an inspired twist of fate from the footballing Gods, i.e. the GHFA Competition Secretary, we meet in the final game of the season this coming weekend. So for the weekend it was job done but for the season it's job *almost* done. Beat Beecroft and we take the premiership. Our destiny, to bask in the glory of premiership victory, lies in the palm of our hands. We must grab it with both. Just like Rocky Balboa, and The Mighty Ducks have done previously, we must do the same.

ALL AGE/19

THORNLEIGH 4 vs GLENHAVEN 1

This was our eagerly awaited top of the table clash with Glenhaven who were on equal points with us coming into this game. The winner from this game should be the PREMIERS for the 2008 season and the boys were primed for a big game.

Glenhaven unfortunately could only muster 9 players for this important game so they played a defensive strategy from the start which we found hard to break down. The Glenhaven team have very good players across the park and are quick to the ball so this was not going to be an easy ride. We started the game pushing the ball around the park using the extra space that we had to create opportunities and it was not long before we were on the score board when a ROLY cross found a flying DAVE to slot home our first goal. Our second followed soon after when MARC broke free from his marker and put a nice one past a diving keeper.

The game was not flowing for us as well as we had hoped for as Glenhaven used the sideline to slow the game down and tried to break up our rhythm, and our normal passing game was not on show as much as we would have liked. Our constant attacking pressure brought us our third goal from a twenty metre free kick when ROLY put a beauty over the wall into the top corner.

We came in at half time three to one up and confident of going on with the job. The opposition came out in the second half with defence on their minds as they pulled every one back and allowed us the freedom of the park to attack from all angles. The Glenhaven keeper had an outstanding second half as he stopped at least four or five certain goals as we constantly broke through the tiring defence only to be denied by him.

Our fourth goal came from a deliberate hand ball in the box that saved a certain goal and PAUL stepped up as he has done all year and put it away with clinical precision. The game ebbed and flowed till the end as we started resting players carrying injuries and we had players who played with the flu so our best game was not on show.

At the back our keeper PETER had our defence team in control with our backs LIAM, CHRIS, EDDY, ANDY and MATT shutting down any raids from the opposition when they threatened. Our mid field of NICK, BOSSY, ROLY, DAVE and WARWICK SPARKES from the 16/2 team had great games while up front MARC and PAUL played strongly against a very tight defence.

A very big thank you to WARWICK for helping us out, he had a great game. A great big thank you to our supporters who turned out again for us on a Sunday morning to cheer us home as they have done all year. We had people from all parts of the club at the game and your support is greatly appreciated.

To the team - well done boys, you deserve to be crowned the PREMIERS for this season. You have worked hard and we have led the competition from round one and only surrendered the lead for two weeks out of thirteen. Win, lose or draw next game we should not be beaten for the title as we are now three points clear of second place and our 'for and against' is +17 goals better than second placed Glenhaven. We look forward to the semi finals now and will continue the hard work that has pushed us so far this season.

Match Points

Chris Brown	2 points
Roland leech	1 point
Marc Tingle	1 point
Paul Goode	1 point
Dave Kowalski	1 point

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 3

A win would have just about assured us a place in the top four; however Rangers were more desperate to secure points to keep them away from the relegation zone. Thornleigh were the first to score when a shot from MARK HOLLIDAY rolled over the goal line. For the next 15 minutes Rangers camped in our final quarter of the field and only good keeping from TRISTAN TULLOCH prevented them from scoring. However it wasn't long before Rangers drew level and then banged in 2 more successive goals to have Thornleigh reeling. With the pressure on we finally started to put together a few passes. Captain AVAN YOUNG scored with 5 minutes left on the clock. We mounted raid after raid in the last few minutes of the match and were unlucky not to snatch a last minute draw. Next weekend's game is again against North Epping Rangers this time at their home ground North Epping Oval. Let's hope we can reverse the score line.

Pos	Team	Points
1	Pennant Hills	35
2	Normanhurst	33
3	Eastwood St Andrews	30
4	Thornleigh	26
5	Kenthurst	21

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

THORNLEIGH 2 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 3

The previous week we beat the competition leaders and this week we were beaten by a team below us on the table - that's football. Thornleigh opened the scoring in the first 5 minutes of the game with a good goal from MITCH BINGEMANN. Rangers responded with 2 goals to take a 2:1 lead into half time. With players tiring Petros brought on WARWICK SPARKES and JOE DeMARCO for the final 20 minutes of play. To the delight of his parents, watching on the sideline, Warwick playing his first game for Premier League scored to bring the scores level. It was a tense last 15 minutes with play moving from end to end but unfortunately Rangers scored the winning goal with only minutes remaining. A big thank you to WARWICK SPARKES and JOE DeMARCO from the 16/2's for backing up straight after their game.

