



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

2-3 August 2008



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

THORNLEIGH THUNDER

MINI & JUNIOR SOCCER

PRESENTATION DAY

Sunday 31 August 2007
Oakleigh Oval

Team presentations commence at 11.00am for Ages 6, 7 and 8.

A free BBQ for all teams aged 6 - 16 years and their families will commence at 12.00 noon and finish at 1.00 pm or when the 650th snag is eaten.

Team presentations for team ages 9-16 years will commence after the BBQ at 1.00pm.

Bring your blankets and chairs and make it a midday family picnic.

Participate in the "crazy THUNDER" theme day.

Wear club shirts, club caps, any distinctive thunder colours, dye your hair in THUNDER colours or wear that blue and gold body paint in the cupboard.

Heaps of prizes for the best human THUNDERS !

Get a super "Thunder cap" which can be bought in the canteen on the day for \$10.

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 2 August 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	ROSELEA	0	2
U9/7	BYE		
U10/2	WEST RYDE ROVERS	1	0
U10/6	NORTH RYDE	0	1
U11/3	GLADESVILLE	4	1
U12/3	NORTH EPPING	0	0
U13/3	WEST RYDE ROVERS	4	3
U14/4	GLENHAVEN	1	3
U15/1	PENNANT HILLS	1	1
U16/2	REDFIELD LIONS	3	1
U16/3	FORFEIT BY THL		
AA/6	PUTNEY	2	1
AA/9	NORTH RYDE	2	2
AA/12	NORTH RYDE	3	0
AA/14	CARLINGFORD REDBACKS	1	1
AA/18	BYE		
AA/19	GAME CALLED OFF		
AA/22	BYE		
O35/2	NORMANHURST	3	2
O35/5	EPPING EASTWOOD	2	1
PL/Res	PENNANT HILLS	0	6
PL/1 st	PENNANT HILLS	2	0

NWSWS Competition – 3 August 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U13/2 (6)	Putney	2	2
U13/2 (7)	Mt St Benedict	2	0
U14/2	Macquarie Combined	3	1
U16/1	Kenthurst	1	3
U17/1	Ravens	3	1
AA/4	Putney	2	3
AA/10	Roselea	0	3



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

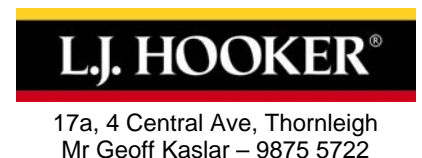
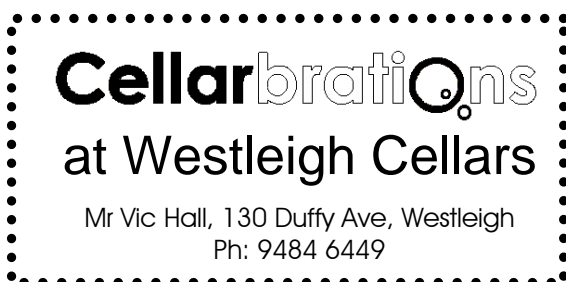
Pennant Hills Bowling Club
52 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills



SILVER SPONSORS



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UNDER 6 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH B vs WEST PENNANT HILLS A

This week we played the first of two wash out games, and glad we did! Because we won! But I digress...The field was a bit rough; the sheep hadn't mowed it! Our team was ready to play. The standout this week was CALIN, who shows no fear and consistently listens to coach's instructions! He has shown courage and tenacity in recent weeks and has really helped our team forward. LUCAS, our main goal striker scored 2 fantastic goals, and missed one chance on the wrong foot.. A near miss for RILEY soon followed with a hard kicking goal. TAYLOR has gained confidence and was always looking to help his teammates. JACQUELINE ran hard per usual and continued her backheeler specials. LIAM ran a length of field effort only to fall short of the goal, but later reversed the result with a true strike in goal. MIKA also showed great intensity and was rewarded with a great goal. Even though the opposition guarded the goal (4 across the net) our team kept at them and was finally rewarded with a great 5-2 away win! Great persistence and wonderful determined coaching by Lachlan has been rewarded. Fantastic effort by our team. Well done. All parents are proud.

Player of the week: CALIN DRIVER
Merit award of the week : LIAM DRAPER

UNDER 6 RED B

THORNLEIGH B vs GLENHAVEN B

The fresh country Glenhaven air must agree with the boys, they were on FIRE. WILL PEARSON was guiding the ball down the field like a true professional, running hard to stop it from going out and nearly scoring several times. MAX KING-PERRY was a real team player, taking the ball down the field with some great big kicks, passing to MYLES CAVANOUGH who scored the first goal for Thornleigh, a roar echoed through the crowd. MYLES CAVANOUGH didn't stop there, realising it was his last game for the season he wanted to make the most of it, and he took the ball down the field again to score for a second time. THOMAS REILLY nearly scored, showing off some excellent dribbling skills, taking the ball down the field then across and across again, only to come up against some good defence from Glenhaven. BRENDAN SMART made sure he was in the right spot to stop some Glenhaven moving forward, blocking the ball well. CHARBEL SOMANI also put up some great defence and attacks on the ball, keeping Glenhaven's score to a minimum. Only one more game to go for the season and the boys have showed so much improvement since April, unfortunately Myles will be off caving, but he played his heart out for his last game for 2008.



UNDER 6 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH 2 vs KENTHURST A 0

Saturday saw a fantastic defensive game from Thornleigh with all the boys in the thick of the action. The Kenthurst A boys kept us on our toes in a very fast and tight game. First half saw great passing skills and team work. LACHLAN kicked the ball to JOSH and he narrowly missed the goal but JOSH was later rewarded with a fantastic goal off a huge corner kick from SAM. ZAC and TOM made excellent use of the space and displayed terrific kicking skills throughout the game. JACK and HARRY worked well together with a great run and pass from JACK. Second half started just as fast and saw SAM elude the defence to get to the goal but his shot just went wide. HARRY had a tremendous defensive game saving several attempts at goal. LACHLAN again was great in defence and managed a great pull back to turn the ball around. The game was nearing the end when HARRY saw a large break in the defence and made an incredible run to score our second goal. Very impressive game boys – great job!

UNDER 6 YELLOW B

THORNLEIGH B 5 vs NORMANHURST B 2

Well it was second time lucky with the weather this week, and we had a fine game against a great team. Normo started with a strong game, but our team worked hard and together and really found their form. Each goal this week was a team effort with JACOB KALNINS, ISABELLE NATOLI and CALLUM SHELLEY all contributing to the score line. JASMINE WILLIAMS ran some great interference, often getting between the ball and the opposition to allow another team member to take possession. LACHLAN KELLY managed to save a few from the goal, working in his favourite defence position. MASON SHELLEY and JESSICA DARGAN worked the mid-field well, shifting from defence to attack and passing the ball to their team. Great stuff Tigers!

UNDER 7 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH 10 vs PENNANT HILLS 0

The team was brimming with enthusiasm when they realised that they were playing the same Pennant Hills team they beat 7 to 1 three weeks ago. After a little lecture on the virtue of humility and the dangers of over-confidence, the team had to work hard against a spirited start from Pennant Hills. As Pennant Hills tired, Thornleigh began to make plenty of opportunities and finished up with a big win. JONATHAN CHAN was water-tight in defence, not only cutting off the Pennant Hills' attack, but giving plenty of run from the back to set up numerous counter attacks. ISAAC DREW continually found the ball in the middle, showing a new found confidence in his improving skills. ISAAC LANE, abounding with almost reckless energy, JIMMIE SHRUBB the power kicker and BEN LANG with his silky ball skills all then scored multiple goals, making it hard to keep tally. And TARA WILSON continued to show enthusiasm and speed to burn, chasing and chasing, maintaining pressure and forcing Pennant Hills' errors, including a Pennant Hills' home goal. The fun continued with a picnic brunch after the game.

UNDER 7 RED A

A terrific effort by the team today. A difficult start with lots of defending required by everyone. BLAKE was a rock at the back helping to clear the ball time after time, well assisted by EMILY and LEON in particular who would race back to help every time. Everyone had some sensational Goal kicks up to the wingers, where VERONICA and HAMISH (waiting just were we had trained to be) collected some great balls and helped head up field. A hard first half against a very skilled Normo team, with the team feeling a little down at half time.

However, the team turned it around in an exciting second half with a steely determination to score some goals. A real gutsy effort where everyone just kept giving it their best meant that it wasn't long before firstly LEON and then NICHOLAS scored some wonderfully skillful goals with EMILY also unlucky to miss out, and VERONICA having her goal called back (after not realising the ball had been out).

Fantastic Effort and some great Gooalll celebrations today. Well done team.

UNDER 7 YELLOW

THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORMANHURST 4

What a great game the boys had this weekend. Both teams were evenly matched and it was a great spectacle for all watching. BRADLEY HOWARD and JORDAN-LEE BACON again played great defensive games and saved a number of goals. JOSHUA BENNET and MORGAN HUGHES took control of the midfield and both coming close a number of times to scoring goals. DANIEL PATTERSON contributed with a hatrick of goals, the 1st one for the 2008 season. All boys simply gave 110% which resulted in the best game of the season. The boys have come along so far this season it was just great to see them play the game we all knew they could.

UNDER 8 ORANGE

Once again this week we faced a match without any reserves. The team faced the formidable task of fronting up against a fresh well reserved outfit in Roselea. Looking a little tired the team went in hard fighting all the way, finding it hard to hold their positions but put up a great defence only to be defeated in the second half.

A great versatile game was had by NICK HO who pushed himself to the limit, seemingly popping up all over the field when he was needed, and played keeper in the second half, Nick received Man of the Match for his efforts.

BRAIDEN WOLHOFF as usual found himself engaged in play well inside the oppositions half with some near misses at goal and some great attacking manoeuvres.

JOSH WATKINS played a great game landing himself a goal and pushing himself to the limit the whole way through.

ZACH MCLEOD had an excellent game in goals in the first half, keeping the score down and put in some great defensive work in the second half.

TOM SELLIN once again played a key role, pushing himself in attack and defence, his clearing kick and throw ins were invaluable.

DANIEL MALLET had a good game and did well working in the backs with ALEX MCLEOD to keep Roselea at bay as well as he did.

HUGH FRASER put in his standard high level of play and commitment, with some great attacking plays and proving invaluable in defence.

TRISTAN DOWNEY was unlucky not to score a goal in the opening minutes of the game. Playing in the forwards, he found himself heavily involved in the play throughout the game with some great supporting play and great defensive efforts.

Even though the team lost this week they can hold their heads up high knowing they tried hard against a strong team who had reserves up their sleeves. The boys go into the last round only defeated twice all season and no draws.

UNDER 9/3

THORNLEIGH 0 vs ROSELEA 2

Semi final football started Saturday and it was a great game. We drew the short straw in 4th place having to play the No. 1 team. Despite this the boys did a great job holding the score to nil all for quite some time with a late goal in the first half to Roselea. Our backs as usual did a fine job under pressure for most of the game. BEN KNIGHT, HARRISON DAVEY and REUBEN SPARGO all tuned in perfectly together covering each other and making some great breaks through the middle showing the halves that they can do it too. HARRISON DARGAN in goals made plenty of saves becoming a great last line of defence. Up front LACHY DUNLOP made a come back after a few weeks off and had a blinder looking like he hadn't missed a game. Up front supporting LACH was JOSH REIDY, TOM McDOWALL and VEERAN MUDALIAR who had a tough time beating a very good goal keeper but put in a great effort. In the middle NATHAN POLLOCK, LUKE FOSTER, and JOSH NATOLI had some great ball time chiming in well with the defence and being fed some great balls from the ever reliable TOM KENNEDY our sweeper. Man of the Match this week went to YASHAR ELLIIN who dazzled us with some very skillful work beating the opposition every time and getting some great balls through to the centre.



UNDER 11/3

THORNLEIGH 4 vs GLADESVILLE 1

The first game of the round robin saw the U11/3s play at home against Gladesville.

The first half was dominated by the Thunder, with quite a few attempts during the half. The team opened the scoring through a fantastic goal to SAM, after some great lead up work by RYAN. Pretty much straight after the restart Gladesville hit back to level the match and it was game on.

NATHAN, ANDREW and DANIEL were stringing together great passes from midfield up front, and this saw many breaks being made. From one of these JASON scored his first for the day. After an enthralling half, we went to the break 2 – 1 up.

The second half again saw Thornleigh dominate most of the possession. We just had to be patient and pick our moments. After hitting the post and seeing the ball go wide MITCH finally found the back of the net, giving us more breathing space. CALLUM was having a great game in defence and turned it into attack many times. MAX, SLADE and BEN S had the ball on a string today and owned the centre area. They were always in the right position to advance the ball, and the whole team had great field presence to help support each other.

The Thunder weren't finished and after some good pressure and precise passing JASON scored a tricky back-flick-kick goal to give the final score of 4 – 1. BEN M had the type of game all goalies want, and wasn't called into action once, for the entire half.

The team can be very proud in how they played, and fought for the entire game. Well Done !!!

UNDER 12/3

THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 0

We just cannot seem to be able to beat this team!!! Today we were all over them like fleas on a mangy dog for most of the game but could not get the decisive goal. TOM L hit the crossbar once and we had another shot cleared off the line but nothing would go in. Top games today from TOM D who had a David and Goliath struggle with Ranger's centre forward who was a good head taller and about 25 kg heavier. Tom kept him on a short leash all day and also managed one monumental run forward to set up a promising attack. ANDRE also played well, showed some nice touches and ran well with the ball. JOSH was outstanding today in a more attacking midfield role, tackling well and setting up the play beautifully. A draw will make getting to the Grand Final difficult but not impossible. Next week we play West Ryde Rovers who we have beaten already this season so we can be confident of our chances if we bring our "A" game. If we don't it will be the end of the season for the Thunder Threes so let's get after them!!!



UNDER 13/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 2 vs PUTNEY RANGERS 2

This was easily our most nail biting game of the season. So far our Putney encounters had been 1-0 to us, and 1-0 to them, so both teams were fired up and ready for an arm wrestle to prove who reigned supreme. The opening whistle brought a full on assault from Putney, who opted to smash the ball at our goals from the kick off while their attack charged at our backs. However, very steady play from KATHERINE, RACHEL, DANI, JESS P and BECKY saw the ball safely cleared, and our attack come to the fore. ELISE, SOPHIE and ALANA connected well up front, and created some great scoring opportunities - including the chance to get one up early when ALANA followed through and collected a fumble by the goalie, but narrowly missed the target. Still, the Thunderettes were attacking strongly, with JOEY, JAS and JESS P working overtime in the midfield, to keep feeding the ball through to the forwards. Then, against the run of play, Putney suddenly got on the attack. Our backs held firm with some great running from KATHERINE and BECKY and good positioning by DANI, however (unfortunately) the cleared ball landed at the feet of a superb Putney striker who positively thundered the ball back at the goals. BEK nimbly managed to get her hands to it, and as we all started to let out our breath the ball bounced free over her shoulder, giving Putney the early lead.

But the "never say die" attitude of the Thunderettes was evident in every player. Again our defence muscled up, driving the ball the ball into attack, who pressured the Putney goalie, but to no avail. Half time saw a slight rejig of the line up, and some orange power, and the Thunderettes notch up a new level of determination. A great tackle then beautiful kick through from JESSIE S saw RACHEL able to run on to the ball with oodles of space to create something special - taking on the goalie and winning - to level up the scores. Putney fought back strongly, and once again their super-striker outfoxed two of our backs and sprinted towards the goals. Despite a massive effort from SOPHIE in goals, Putney squeezed the ball through, to take the lead again. And again, the Thunderettes fought back. BEK pulled out her big kicking and chasing game, a sick BETH made some outstanding cameo appearances in defence, while DANI made some truly powerful tackles. SOPHIE, in goals made another spectacular save which left even the Putney players marvelling at how she managed it, and was then able to power the ball back down to the forward line. ELISE, RACHEL, JAS, and ALANA all made some great breaks, but were constantly thwarted by the Putney defence. And then it happened.... RACHEL again made a break, smashing the ball at the goals, but the Putney goalie was able to get her foot to it and send it screaming back towards the midfield.... right into the boot of a waiting JESS P who skied the ball back over the heads of everyone.... and straight into the back of the net.

From then on, the game raced from one end of the field to the other, with every player having to give their all. Putney came close to scoring, then we did.... and the noise from the crowds was absolutely deafening (particularly the noise from a certain coach). The final whistle narrowly averted a few heart attacks - but what a great game to watch! Players of the Match: Everyone! Special mentions for JESS P and ELISE.

UNDER 13/3

THORNLEIGH 4 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 3

There was a new fervour to the team today which made for an exciting game to watch. The game started off with Thornleigh firmly on the attack. This positive play saw a great solo run by JACOB KOWALSKI who scored the first goal. Our lead didn't last long though with the opposition equalising soon afterwards. However, Thornleigh came back with some wonderful forward play by the midfield where we saw a great pass by JACK ANGEL to MATTHEW FORD and then on to JACOB KOWALSKI who then kicked a great lob over the goalies head to score the second goal. The third goal came with a great header by MATTHEW FORD which saw the goalie stop the goal, only to have the ball rebound of one of the oppositions own players and into the goal. It was just before the end of the second half that the opposition scored their second goal to bring the score to 3-2 in Thornleigh's favour at half time. It was 4 minutes into the second half when the opposition managed to equalise the score, even though the Thornleigh defence generally was better in this half with DOMINIC BORG sweeping the ball effectively while SAMUEL CLARKE, CALLUM MOSES and DARREN JOOSTEN methodically ensured the ball was kept away from the goals. Also playing their part in the midfield and forwards was ALASDAIR BELLING, HABID ZIKRIA and OLIVER JUDSON. Our final goal came 5 minutes later with a throw in to the fearsome (to the opposition!) JASON KOWALSKI ending with a pass to SAMUEL LANE who kicked the ball into goal. Hats off to some great goal keeping by JOSHUA COOPER who has featured as our star goal keeper this whole season. Great effort by the team with everyone stepping up for this 1st of 2 pennant games.

UNDER 14/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 3 vs MACQUARIE COMBINED 1



The day started well with Thornleigh winning the toss to force MCC to face the low sun. It took 9 minutes for Thornleigh to open the scoring from a lovely pass from ALISSIA and a half field run and shot from EMILIE. The lead didn't last long because Thornleigh allowed MCC to recoup a goal because of a bit of ball watching. There after the game became like a slow moving pendulum where each side took turns to attack for a 5 minute period before the flow would change and the other side would get their turn. It wasn't until ten minutes into the second half for EMILIE to squeeze another goal in between wheezing episodes. Minutes later, victory was sealed after GEORGIA drew a penalty from a bruising crash to the ground whilst making an attacking run on goal. ALISSIA confidently converted the penalty. Thornleigh however continued to attack right to the end. But it wasn't just about goals. The defence did their part which allowed the team to win. LISA continues to punch above her weight by winning most of her tackles. ALYCE was able to intercept the attacks and win the ball on several occasions, with her very handy way of challenging. ALISSIA's sweeping was nothing less than sensational nullifying any serious attack. SAMMIE also had an influential game, in the midfield, with her no-nonsense challenges turning the ball around to mount an attack. Behind the scenes we had JESS & TESS who also frustrated MCC with their tackles in the mid-field. The Player's Player was awarded to EMILIE LOWE. All-in-all a great effort girls. You are now reaching your potential in Division 2. Your loyal supporters thank you.

UNDER 15/1

THORNLEIGH 1 vs PENNANT HILLS 1

For our second last match of the season we gathered at Penno Park to do battle with our neighbours. It was suitably warm given the pending spring season!

A vigorous start to the match with Thunder performing at their peak. Despite 3 strong shots at goal the game remained scoreless until the 25th minute of the first half, Penno scored a strong goal. It was almost 2 nil at the 26th minute but Leroy thwarted their attempts. Then at the 27th minute Thornleigh had a free kick and MATT kicked a glorious goal that flicked through the goalie's fingers like quicksilver. As the whistle blew to herald the end of the first half Thornleigh and Penno confirmed that they are teams of equal strength. An entertaining half with some eye catching work from Saamid, Kel, Ed and Zac.

The second half was a torrid battle which remained scoreless. Both teams were unlucky not to ping a second goal.

Thus on to the last game of the season against MCA.

UNDER 16/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs KENTHURST 3

The Thunders came out firing today and kept it up for the full 70 minutes. Congratulations Girls, you played your best match so far this season!

10 minutes into the game ANNALESE SMITH took the ball up the right wing and made a lovely cross which found DANI CHARARA who put it past the keeper. As the keeper picked up the ball from what appeared to be well behind the goal line, supporters Thundered their approval of the opening goal, but unbelievably it was disallowed. Such is life, but to their credit our girls put the setback behind them and got on with their fabulous football.

It's hard to name the best players today because everyone played out of their skins against a side with seemingly no weak links. However it must be said that MADELEINE BROWN and ARI O'NEILL were exceptional in defence, as was BEC WICKHAM and stopper RANI PAII despite feeling crook and of course our fearless keeper FIONA SPARKES. And DANA HELEVI played by far her best match to date in mid-field and EMMA FORD was simply brilliant.

The first half was a very even affair providing very entertaining football, however with a minute to go a great run by one of Kenthurst's fast forwards took her past our defenders resulting in a nil-1 scoreline going in to the break.

In the second half Kenthurst was on the attack and only great defensive work held them out, on one occasion a high shot copping a reflex push over the bar by FIONA. But at 13 minutes Kenthurst found our net, not from defensive errors on our part but by sheer good, fast play.

The Thunderettes kept their heads up and within a few minutes had turned the tables with a cracker into the Kenthurst net from ANNALESE. The game was on and the parents could smell an second Thunder goal just around the corner and it almost happened! Then late in the match Kenthurst scored their third and the match was slipping away. But forget about the scoreline, as the girls played great attacking football and never said die.

Well done girls, your supporters are looking forward to next week's match against Roselea who were beaten 2-0 today by Normo, so there is still a chance of making the final.

UNDER 16/2

THORNLEIGH 3 vs REDFIELD LIONS 1

WAZ, HARRY and MAUDE worked hard in the first 15 minutes and Wazza was unlucky not to score. Our first goal came as a result of good pressure from JORDAN, which enabled us to get past their defence and their keeper who came out to get the ball - but missed, allowing HARRY to put the ball in. Unfortunately Redfield equalised 1 minute before half time.

The second half saw the team fired up from a passionate half time talk from CRAIG who told the team to stop letting Redlands push them around. They took this on board and the mood lifted further still when PITCH arrived at the game and took to the field 5 minutes into the second half.

Our second goal came as a result of MATT's exceptional heading skills. The ball was belted up and Redlands tried to get a head to it but MATT was taller and quicker and got there first. He headed it down towards the goal then ran after it, got there first again, and kicked it in!

Our third goal was pretty amazing. PITCH ripped everyone in their defensive line and their keeper to put the ball into the net. From the sidelines it seemed as if the Redfield defence just stood still and watched him! The game had to stop for a few moments while the team congratulated him - it was such an awesome display of soccer skills. Even HARRY was impressed and it takes a lot to impress HARRY.

The rest of the game saw many more chances, Redfield obviously humbled by the talent before them, and another excellent play by PITCH, but none were converted into a goal. Not that we needed one at this point.

ALL AGE/6

THORNLEIGH 2 vs PUTNEY 1

Phase One complete. That's the message coming out of the first semi final where The Thunder was victorious. We went there with a job to do and we did it. Just. A late winner meant that a few of the more senior members of our cheer squad need a trip to the heart clinic this week. Hopefully they'll be able to last two more games and recuperate over the off season. The game started off well for the Thunder, which is not usually the case, with several enterprising plays coming close to bearing fruit but we just couldn't quite get that last pass to connect and when they did the Putney keeper had an answer for us. The one time we did beat him it was somehow disallowed for offside causing a few furrowed brows in blue and yellow but it just further strengthened our resolve. However a breakdown of communication and concentration allowed our opponents to pounce on a loose ball and move it quickly through for them to open the scoring five minutes before the break and totally against the run of play. Thunder heads nearly dropped but we managed to keep things together long enough to be able to regroup at half time. It would be fair to say we dominated the first half and we focused on our strengths and worked out our weaknesses from the first half and continued to pile the pressure on. SIMON WATERHOUSE put a little too much pressure on an opponents head and spilt some claret for the Thunder. His "Nah, she'll be right" attitude towards stitches giving him much respect among the Thunder faithful. TIM MORISON equalised 13 minutes into the half after a bit of route

one football saw our keepers punt somehow ghost through the middle right to him and despite some pressure he was never going to lose out one on one with the keeper. Some good chances followed and ANDREW BOUGHTON just failed to edge us ahead after the keepers first save went a fraction behind him. With the clock running down The Thunder continued to heap the pressure on our opponents who seemed to be holding on for a draw. A personnel change saw eventual man of the match PAT CHAPMAN move to the midfield to spark further creativity with some almost spectacular results. With just 2 minutes to go it was his pin point accurate corner that met Timi Goal's head as it rose above the pack to fire the ball into the net and seal our victory. We came close to a third seconds later but were once again denied by the on form Putney keeper. It was a fantastic display of grit and determination from the Thunder. No one gave up and everyone fought tooth and nail for every ball. BENTON JOHNSON and GREG RUSTON were tireless in defence. MARK KENNEDY rallied the troops from the midfield and BRAD RUSTON even took a mud bath for the team. Goal keeper MARK DENNIS also provided the backbone for the win with some tremendous saves. So Phase One is complete. Just one more game to get into the grand final. We've been chasing that dream all year. It's so close we can smell it... or maybe that's just Brad. Now we have to grab it. The grand final dream, not Brad. Commence Phase Two.

OVER 35/5

THORNLEIGH 2 vs EPPING EASTWOOD 1

The 35/5s travelled to the far reaches of the Association's northern outskirts on Saturday to take on their nemesis the Epping Eastwood Tigers.

The previous two meetings this season had resulted in wins to Epping Eastwood. The two losses were enough to cost us a top four position.

An own goal by RICK 'Escobar' MURTON saw us go to the half time break 0-1.

A header by TIM HAYWARD from a superb DARREN OATES cross saw us level the scores early in the second half.

Then late in the game a pin point pass in the 6 yard box from DARREN OATES saw the Guv'na side foot the ball past the hapless keeper.

Thanks to Rob Roberts for biking it out to Arcadia to referee the game.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the afternoon was 'Rockin' Rob Roberts and Palace Dave Isted heading south along Arcadia Road in tandem on their motor scooters.

Easy Rider.....NOT



PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs PENNANT HILLS 0

While our top four finish was decided last weekend Pennant Hills needed to win this game to take out the premiership. With 6 regular first graders out Petros promoted PIP BINGEMAN, CHRIS WOOD, ANDREW GAMBLE, BLAKE SWEENEY, CHRIS MOXHAM and LUKE ELKHUIZEN to the starting line up. Pennant Hills played strongly for the first 30 minutes but could not break down our defensive line. With a 0:0 score line at half time Pennant Hills knew the clock was running down on their premiership hopes. Much to the delight of a rather large and vocal Thunder crowd BLAKE SWEENEY scored, following a good cross from CHRIS WOOD. This goal was followed 10 minutes later with another perfectly placed goal from "Man of the Moment" BLAKE. LUKE ELKHUIZEN was outstanding as the stand in keeper, while Blake will make it difficult for Petros selecting next weekend's starting eleven. Next Saturday's semi final will be against Pennant Hills, who finished in third spot, at Morrison Bay Oval No 4 at 3.15.

Final Table

Pos	Team	Points
1	Normanhurst	37
2	Eastwood St Andrews	36
3	Pennant Hills	35
4	Thornleigh	30

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

THORNLEIGH 0 vs PENNANT HILLS 6

Again with only 8 regular squad members available we again had to draw on players from our junior teams. All of these players had either just played or in one case played two games that morning prior to volunteering to assist the Premier League squad. That's Thunder COMMITMENT! KEL GIBBONS 15/1, MATTHEW LOWE 16/2, and DAVID ARMSTRONG 16/2, WARWICK SPARKES 16/2 and MICHAEL GAMBLE 14/4 all acquitted themselves very well. From our regular squad MARCUS BINGEMAN, OWEN LANSLEY and PHIL HOVARTH spent most of the game trying to remember the young boy's names and keeping up with them. While the score line was not important the game gave coach Petros an opportunity to blood some of our junior players. Pennant Hills scored 3 goals in each half but did not really dominate the game. The team finished the season in 7th position on 17 points. Well done guys let's look forward to a top four finish next season.

