



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

9-10 August 2008



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to kedrummond@optusnet.com.au

MINI & JUNIOR SOCCER PRESENTATION DAY

Sunday 31 August 2008
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.

Thunder 2008 Grand Finalists

Saturday 16 August

Under 16/2	11.15am	Meadowbank No. 2
All Age/6	3.00pm	Meadowbank No. 9
All Age/12	3.00pm	Morrison No. 6

It would be great if a big Thunder crowd came along to support the teams!

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 9 August 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	Glenhaven	0	1
U9/7	North Epping Rangers	0	0
U10/2	Epping YMCA	5	1
U10/6	North Ryde	3	0
U11/3	Ryde District	6	1
U12/3	West Ryde Rovers	1	2
U13/3	Carlingford Redbacks	5	2
U14/4	St Andrews	1	4
U15/1	Macquarie Combined	0	4
U16/2	Ryde District	0	0
U16/3	Forfeit by THL		
AA/6	West Ryde Rovers	2	2
AA/9	BYE		
AA/12	West Pennant Hills	0	1
AA/14	BYE		
AA/18	Carlingford Redbacks	1	0
AA/19	West Pennant Hills	4	2
AA/22	Forfeit by THL		
O35/2	West Pennant Hills	1	2
O35/5	West Pennant Hills	2	1
PL/Res	No Game		
PL/1 st	Pennant Hills	1	1
	Penalty shoot out	4	5

NWSWS Competition – 10 August 2008			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U13/2 (6)	Thornleigh (7)	5	0
U13/2 (7)	Thornleigh (6)	0	5
U14/2	North Epping Rangers	0	3
U16/1	Roselea	1	7
U17/1	Saints	0	6
AA/4	Normanhurst	4	2
AA/10	Putney	1	0



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

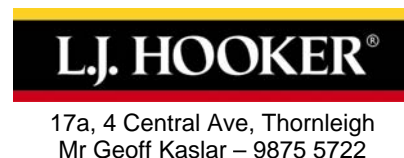
Pennant Hills Bowling Club
52 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSOR



UNDER 6 GREEN A

THORNLEIGH A vs HILLS HAWKS

For the last round of the season, Under 6 Green A showed again that teamwork and effort count for as much as 'star quality', even at this age. The boys were as keen as usual, and perhaps the last match brought out the best. With just five players, it meant everyone had a good run, and there were a few hot faces by the end of the match. Special mention this week to SEAN, who left it to the last minute, but put in his best game of the year. His first goal, a terrific saving tackle, and plenty of great work in the midfield. ASHLEY led the goal charge (reckons he scored 10), and MARK landed a spectacular effort that nearly rocked the goal frame out of its pegs. MITCHELL was unlucky, but still scored and was everywhere around the ground. TIMON chimed in as well (everyone wanted to get into the act) and has taken over from MARK as the premier tackler in the team. We missed 'Lucky Legs' HARRY and our very youngest player RAAJ, but everyone has had a marvellous season, and I hope to see everyone again next year.

Player of the Match – EVERYONE
Encouragement Award – PAULA

UNDER 6 GREEN B

THORNLEIGH B vs GLENAHAVEN B

Maybe it was the last game of the season that spurred them on, or the thought of going to McDonalds afterwards, but our young team delivered another great win! A full squad of very enthusiastic players took control of the game from the outset. Within a few minutes LUCAS made a great run and started the scoring with a definitive goal. Not to be outdone, RILEY followed up on his own corner kick and dodged several opponents to slot another goal home. We saw great defence from MIKA, his kick-ins a speciality, and TAYLOR made several breaks through the pack, allowing LUCAS to score again. Second half play had JACQUELINE showing off her trademark backheelers, one splitting the pack delivering to RILEY for another great goal. CALIN, once again was in the thick of it, and it was great to see some really long kicking from him. The whole team was starting to show real teamwork with several plays linking up. LIAM scored our final goal with a gutsy never say die effort beating all before him. The determination was fantastic! All parents were very proud of our team's efforts today and all were rewarded with that trip to McDonalds! This was ultimately a great experience for a very young team and we will see the fruits of that labour really blossom in the coming years. A big thank you to LACHLAN REYNOLDS for his huge effort this season. An easy pick for coach of the century! Thank you also to the Mums and Dads supporting their children in a positive way. Great to see! Bring on next season!

Player of the week: MIKA DELEBAUX
Merit award of the week: TAYLOR FRY



UNDER 6 RED B

THORNLEIGH B vs KENTHURST B

What beautiful weather for the last game of the season, the boys were both excited and saddened by the end of the season, at least they will get a trophy to keep. The boys played a great defensive game, stopping the other team scoring in fantastic style. Firstly BRENDAN SMART standing right in front of the goals stopping Kenthurst scoring with a great kick away from goal, he really knows how to block the ball. Next THOMAS REILLY sped down the field alongside the Kenthurst player to kick his ball away from goal just in the nick of time. CHARBEL SOMANI also gave chase and applied amazing pressure on another Kenthurst player resulting in another save. MAX KING-PERRY was making excellent progress with great big kicks down and across the field, also applying great pressure on the other team. WILL PEARSON was also making great headway with some awesome attacks on the ball. The boys had to run extra hard to make up for MYLES CAVANOUGH who was off caving. Coach ROB SMART was ecstatic about the boy's progress this year, and told them they had all come a long way. Thanks to ROB SMART for being such an encouraging and dedicated coach (all the other teams left training when it started pouring with rain). Thanks to ADAM CAVANOUGH for helping the boys on the field as Game Leader. Thanks to our team photographer SUSAN JACOBSON for providing such wonderful memories of the season (unfortunately no photos this week, she was caving with Myles). And finally thanks to the manager JUDY REILLY for providing such creative reports of the game each week. The team are looking forward to an exciting season in 2009.

Player of the Week: Everyone

UNDER 11/3

THORNLEIGH 6 vs RYDE 1

How fast did this season go, it only seems like yesterday we were at registration. Today we found ourselves at Meadowbank 3 for our last game of 2008.

The team definitely had Thunder in the boots today, with the team playing one of their best games of the season. Straight from the kickoff we were all over the opposition in defence and attack.

During this half we saw our first hat trick of goals, with JASON unleashing three Thunderous left foots into the back of the net, Ryde couldn't contain him. However, it all relies on getting good balls from the centre of the field, and this is where NATHAN and DANIEL excelled. They stole possession many times from Ryde and fed the ball up front. The team had many more shots, with SAM popping up everywhere, and unlucky not to score, but some desperate defence saw us kept out.

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. BEN M got us away to a terrific start by scoring a wonderful goal, and only minutes later backed it up with another one. MAX and SLADE were smothering the opposition players and didn't give them a chance to string together any raids, both boys had an outstanding game. On the odd raids that did occur our ever-reliable defenders in BEN S, RYAN and CALLUM chased down the ball and turned defence into attack. The three of them played brilliantly.

The team was still eager to score more goals, and when MITCHELL scored in the last ten minutes, we were hopping the flood gates may open, but it wasn't to be.

Full credit to Ryde who didn't give up all game, and late in the 2nd half scored a goal against us. We now have a nervous wait to see if the results went our way for the Pennant.

The team can be very proud in how they played, Well Done !!! & Congratulations on a wonderful season.

UNDER 12/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 2

Well that's the end of the season for the Thunder Threes. However they certainly did not go out with a whimper. This was an absorbing and very close game which could have gone either way. Rovers scored two cracking goals which were answered by a Beckham like free kick by TOM L from way outside the box which, on COACH BOB'S instructions, he planted in the top corner. Having sent our team Mata Haris (thanks MAX and RAJ) down to spy on the other semi, we knew a draw would be enough to get to the Championship Final. But draw schmwaw....we were playing for a win!! Unfortunately so were Rovers and they got the result. Everyone played a great game and the final few minutes where we threw everything at Rovers was compelling. We went agonizingly close when IZAACK put up a high shot from a mile out which the goalie could not have touched with a stepladder and Inspector Gadget arms. We all thought it was going in but it went over the top by a gnat's whisker. One less psi or a zephyr of wind..... But nearly never did and Rovers deserved their win. Great games today from JOSH, who was everywhere in attack and defence, and JULIAN who defended stoutly and left his mark on a couple of Rovers' attackers. TOM D was back to his Duracel Bunny best shutting down numerous attacks with a mile of running. WILL was dynamite in the midfield and BLAKE had his best game of the season, moving to the ball and chasing absolutely everything. So ends a season that started with trepidation, as we were unsure how we would go having moved up two divisions, and finished with us missing the Grand Final by only a puff of wind. Let's look forward to next season and another leg on this team's football journey. So far it has been fun for all.

UNDER 13/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH (team 6 - aka "the Bibs") 5 vs THORNLEIGH (team 7 - aka "non Bibs") 0

The local derby was on again, and while there was some initial confusion over what the official "cheer" should be (after all, both teams were "Thornleigh") and what to do about a referee (as ours had gone to the wrong ground), the game got underway under the reluctant guidance of JOHN CAVILL - to whom both teams were incredibly grateful. The Bibs went on the attack early and despite a massive effort from HANNAH C in goals and a tenacious non-bib backline, were able to capitalise on their chances early via a lovely shot from ALANA, before the official ref finally appeared and took control of the game.

The Bibs then got hungry, and it wasn't long before ELISE, RACHEL, JESS P, JOEY and JAS were all keenly looking to score, while a valiant SOPHIE, DIANA and HANNAH T tried to thwart them. RACHEL found the back of the net after a mishap saw a non-bib knock down her own goalie, and a short time

later a marauding JAS managed to outfox a few non-bibs to finally score (it's been coming for a while). ALANA finished the first half by booting her second to put the bibs up 4-0 at the break. That's not to say that the bib backs weren't feeling some heat with some lovely breaks from HANNAH T forcing KATHERINE, DANI, BECKY and BEK to put in some work.

The second half saw a change in goalies, and again the Bibs powered into attack but were thwarted time and again by CLARE (non-bibs) in goals, while ANNA made some great saving tackles and put some big kicks down field which enabled the non-bibs to make some lovely attacking runs and really start to pressure the Bibs defence. A rejig of the Bibs line-up saw JOEY score her first soccer goal ever, but despite being down on the scoreboard the non-bibs only grew more determined to even up the score. All in all, it was a good game, and all players gave their all.

UNDER 13/3

THORNLEIGH 5 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 2

What a way to end the season. A magnificent start to the game saw Thornleigh score the first 2 goals in under 2 minutes of the start. The 1st goal was scored by MATTHEW FORD from left of field and was so quick that it took a moment to register. The second goal was scored from a lovely run up the right hand wing by JACOB KOWLSKI who netted the goal with a super side angled kick. A run by SAMUEL LANE almost from our back line, also up the right wing saw him score our third goal by the 7th minute. A great free kick by JACK ANGEL not long after almost gave us an opportunity to score again. After some scary fumbling in defence in the 22nd minute where the opposition almost came close to scoring the ball was brought up the wing by JACK ANGEL all the way to score our 4th goal. We saw some great team play off a throw in by DALE EDWARDS to JACK ANGEL with an attempt at goals by MATTHEW FORD. The opposition did have several close calls at scoring but some great sweeper action from DOMINIC BORG and good attacking defence by DARREN JOOSTEN and dogged determination by SAMUEL CLARKE and the incomparable JOSHUA COOPER in goals saw that the opposition did not score in the first half. The 2nd half saw ALLISDAIR BELLING take the goalie honours with a fantastic kick right over the half way line but unfortunately the ball was lost to the opposition. We also saw some thoughtful play by HABID ZIKRIA and OLIVER JUDSON which contributed to the forward attack by a team that was really on fire today. The opposition soon scored their first goal but this was answered by a super pass by CALLUM MOSES, who managed to wrestle the ball from the opposition time and time again, to SAMUEL LANE who scored our 4th goal. JACK ANGEL scored the 5th goal with a brilliant run up the middle of the field. The opposition scored their 2nd goal with 5 minutes of play left bringing an exciting match to its conclusion. The Thunder spirit lives on!

UNDER 16/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ROSELEA 7

Great goal Annaleise! What more can you say?

UNDER 16/2

THORNLEIGH 0 vs RYDE DISTRICT 0

A depleted side with 4 players out with injury and illness. Special mention goes to MIKE YOUNGMAN for playing with a broken nose and HARRY for playing as the lone striker.

The defensive line rose to the challenge and worked hard and relentlessly the whole game with stand out performances from MIKE Y. and STEVE, with DAZ working as Mr. Consistent on the left and JOEY giving his all on the right. JOHN made many great saves as usual, and intimidated the opposition.

MAUDE had a truly awe-inspiring game playing both in the wing and in defence, and was the key player for our attacking opportunities - he played the pants off everyone. PYSAR was on and off the whole game with breathing difficulties but managed to put in his all.

WAZ and BEN played well in a stressful game while both keeping their cool and performing both the attacking and defensive roles to perfection. MICHAEL DENNETT stepped from the thirds to play a great game to put in 100% to the end.

Special mention to our sick and injured players on the bench, (MATT and JORDAN), who supported from the sidelines to boost morale.

Great effort considering the injuries. Well done. See you in the grand final!

ALL AGE/6

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 2

It was a close one but The Thunder did it. They made it through to the grand final and are forcing me to make good on my promise of wearing a suit. A win or draw would have done it and we just managed to hang on for a draw in what was definitely a game of two halves. After only two minutes ROBERT ZWATRZKA nodded in a perfect cross from ANDREW BOUGHTON to clinch a vital early lead. The Thunder kept the pressure on and the Rovers defence was all at sea and just couldn't handle the sustained attack. This was proven when Robert's cross to TIM MORISON was intercepted by a Rovers defender... straight into his own net. The Rovers had no answer for the pace of MURRAY GRAVES down the right and PAT CHAPMAN dominated the midfield but despite good efforts on goal from BRAD RUSTON and MARK KENNEDY we just couldn't quite increase our lead. We went into the break ahead by two but were all aware that there was plenty to do yet. The second half started with a rude shock. The Rovers less than sporting tactics (I'm doing my best to be P.C. here, it's a family newsletter) saw them awarded a penalty five minutes in. They equalised just over a minute later as everyone was still stunned and not really awake, as if in a bad dream or something. From then on something turned and it made things more difficult for things to go The Thunder's way if you know what I mean. This just further strengthened our resolve and the boys dug their heels in and refused to be beaten by anyone. We continued to heap the pressure on playing some very good football that The Rovers just couldn't handle. That they resorted to fisticuffs was to be expected and I commend The Thunder for the way the situation was handled. That MARK KENNEDY was sent from the field for basically what amounts to being trampled on was a farce. He will be missed next week. But it soaked up the time and with four minutes to go we were happy with a draw and used every tactic available to slow down The Rovers play.

ANDREW LISCOE had a superb chance to be a hero but all hopes of glory went sailing over the crossbar. That the final whistle blew was a huge relief although the fun didn't quite end there. Man of the match was DAVID POWER who defended like a tiger all day and looked quite at home at the back. Also brilliant at the back were BENTON JOHNSON and SIMON WATERHOUSE as well as keeper MARK DENNIS. AARON BOOTH and ROSS EDWARDS made solid contributions in the midfield. So one more game to go and it's the big one. The only game we've wanted to play in all year is upon us. Yes there are some disappointing outcomes from the last game but that's over now. We can't look back and dwell. We must look forward. We know we'll get a good, honest game out of Beecroft. I'm sure it's a challenge we'll all relish. So far we've had a loss and a draw against them. What odds a Thunder victory on The Big Day in August?

ALL AGE WOMEN/10

THORNLEIGH 1 vs PUTNEY 0

Our first win of the season, finally paid off in the second last game of the season. The first half was pretty much Putney Rangers game, they had about 8 attempts at goal but KATHY our goalie was not allowing any balls through her at all, and defensively LISA, MEGAN, FRANCES and MEGHAN kept on putting the pressure on the Putney Rangers. The first half also saw ANNA, taking a penalty outside our box but unfortunately the ball went wide. ANGELA kept working hard up and down the left wing of the field and kept bulldozing the players like she does. AMANDA, FELECITY, KRISTEN and ALICE kept trying to get the ball up field and our half but we didn't make much of the first half in our attempts at goal. We went into the second half nil all, and played stronger together. LISA our left back did everything in her power to stop the players coming into our half, you could tell by how much mud was all over her body, at one point she dived into the mud to stop a player and the ball. She never gives up. FRANCES moved to striker and tried to get control of the ball and score but unfortunately was not able to. But in the last 10 minutes of the match ALI who was trying effortlessly all season to score finally kicked the ball across the goal mouth to hit the back right of the net. Congratulations to Ali's goal and first goal of the season, she is most deserving of getting this goal with the numerous attempts all season. So the last 10 minutes we slowed the game down and did all that was in our power to not allow Putney Rangers to get back into the match. The final whistle blow and we won the match. Congratulations to all players and Rob Roberts our coach for a first win of the season.



ALL AGE/19

1st semi final

THORNLEIGH 0 v GLADESVILLE SHARKS 2

Our first semi final against the 4th placed team was postponed due to the ground being unsuitable for play. This was a great disappointment as both teams as well as referees and linesman turned up to play only to be told that the game was cancelled.

The game was moved to Wednesday night at Christie Park and the occasion and the night game worked against us as we went down to a Sharks team that somehow seemed to grow an extra leg with players that had awesome speed around the park and skills that we had not seen all season. As we had beaten them on both occasions during the season comfortably we were shocked at how a team could suddenly become such a complete football team. The boys came in at half time shattered to be down two nil and we had to work hard during the break to get them back into the game. The team went out in the second half full of fight and the Sharks hardly got into our half but luck deserted us that night as we repeatedly hit the woodwork and outstanding saves by the Gladesville keeper kept us scoreless. We left the park devastated but determined to avenge the loss in the second semi final.

2nd semi final

THORNLEIGH 4 v WEST PENNANT HILLS 2

This was a cracker game worthy of an elimination semi final as both teams battled to gain the ascendancy over each other. With a big crowd at Oakleigh cheering us along we came out to face West Pennant Hills knowing that another loss or a draw would see the end of our fantastic season.

The game started with us looking tired and tentative as we were still feeling the effects from the bruising encounter with the Sharks and West Penno opened the scoring after only two minutes when a poor defensive lapse allowed the opposition to score.

The crowd was cheering on the boys as we started to gain the upper hand when against the run of play a West Penno player ran down the right flank and in the process clearly put the ball out of play which was unseen by the linesman and the boys slowed down expecting the referee to call for a throw in and this allowed the opposition to put it past our keeper. The crowd alerted the referee to the ball going out and the referee conferred with the linesman and allowed the goal.

The first half of this game was not one that we were too proud of as we looked listless and slow to the ball and we came into the break two down and needing to regroup. A good talk by the coach reset the team and we came out determined to put in the best 45 minutes of football that we could.

Our first goal came from a monstrous CHRIS throw in which PAUL latched onto and headed past the diving keeper. The boys were now playing good football passing the ball around and running onto passes and the big crowd came to life in support to spur the boys on. The next goal was a beauty as we passed from the mid field through the feet of both strikers MARC to PAUL who put a nice pass for ROLY to weave around his markers and smash it past the keeper.

The crowd were now riding the boys home as we kept up the pressure with pin point passing. We were again on the score board and as PAUL has done all season, streaked away from his marker just before being brought down by a flying tackle and hit a beautiful left foot rocket that went onto the top right hand corner.

The team was never going to surrender the lead from this point and our next goal came from a DAVE cross who found the head of ROLY who headed it onto MARC to put away our fourth goal.

Our team today played some great football to completely dominate the second half and showed the crowd why we were PREMIERS this season.

Our team today was PETER in goals, the backs were LIAM, DESHAN, MATT and CHRIS while in our mid field we had TERENCE, NICK, HAYDEN, DAVE, and ROLY and up front we had PAUL and MARC.

A big thank you to our great supporters who have come to every game and cheered us on and a big thank you to David Lane for organizing the BBQ for everyone to enjoy after the final game of the season. We unfortunately will not be competing for the Championship Final as the other two teams had a draw which knocked us out. Well done boys we have had a great season.

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 1 vs PENNANT HILLS 1

This was our first appearance in the semi finals since re-entering Premier League 7 season's ago. Following on from our 2:0 defeat of Pennant Hills in the last round of the competition we knew they would come out charged up to turn the tables. The first 20 minutes was very fast paced with Thunder having the best of play. DAMIEN SUPLINA, playing his best game of the season, finally broke the deadlock with a low drilled shot past their keeper. One goal up in a semi final was a great position to be in. Pennant Hills looked rattled; we kept applying pressure on their keeper and were unlucky not to score a second goal when Damien chipped their keeper, but unfortunately the ball hit the cross bar and bounced out of play. In the 92nd minute of play Pennant Hills were awarded a sideline free kick. The kick was perfectly placed for one of their players to head in a goal to take the game into extra time. At the end of 20 minutes of extra time the scores were still deadlocked. The game then went into a penalty shoot out. After 4 shots each the teams were still level but unfortunately our last player shot the ball just wide of the goals...so close yet so far away..... It was a taste of final's football that I'm sure all players will look forward to repeating next season. Thank you to all the Thunder supporters for turning up in numbers, it's a pity we could not give you the victory that we all deserved. Thanks to coach Petros and his assistant Daniel for their efforts in getting Thunder into the finals.

