



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

# SOCCER DIVISION

## Blue & Gold Newsletter

16-17 August 2008



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm

Email to [kedrummond@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kedrummond@optusnet.com.au)

### END OF SEASON SOCIAL NIGHT TICKETS READY TO PAY & COLLECT

**\$25 per person\***

\*\$5 for senior players who have paid 2008 fees  
– tickets available on payment only and subject to  
being sold out.

Tickets Payable - 31<sup>st</sup> August at Junior  
Presentation Day or by prior arrangement

*Players, Parents, Family  
and Friends of Thunder*

**7.00pm arrive for 7.30pm start**

**Saturday 27 September 2008**

Thornleigh West Public School Hall

**HIT LIVE BAND "THE WAVES"**

- Hosted by the magnificent Tony Ruttyn.
- Gourmet food by Crown Catering (BYOG).
- Video of season highlights mini and senior players.
- Fancy Sporting Attire or Olympic Nation Theme.
- Auctions and Prizes.
- Annual Thornleigh Soccer Club Awards

#### Book Tickets:

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

### 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.

## RESULTS

#### GHFA Competition – 16 August 2008 – Grand Finals

Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U16/2	Ryde District	2	2
AA/6	Beecroft	1	1

#### NWSWS Competition – 10 August 2008

Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U13/2 (6)	Mt St Benedict	2	0
U13/2 (7)	Putney	0	2
U14/2	Bye		
U16/1	Normanhurst	2	1
U17/1	West Pennant Hills	7	1
AA/4	Kenthurst	0	1
AA/10	West Ryde	2	0

# 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

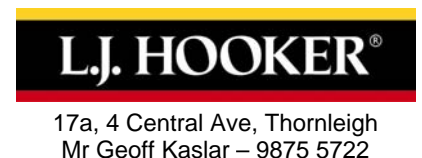
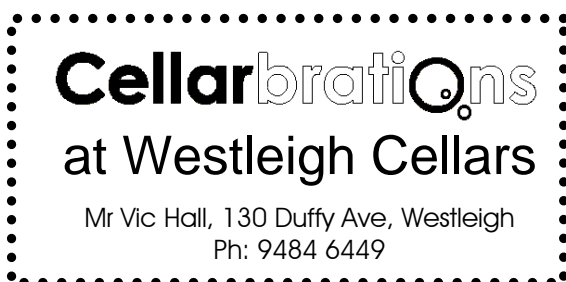
Pennant Hills Bowling Club  
52 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills



## SILVER SPONSORS



## BRONZE SPONSOR



## UNDER 7 GREEN A

### U7 Thunders Roar Home!!

9/8/08

Another great result from a team full of good mates.

NICK "the quick", WILL "the big", AIDEN "the determined", DAN "the sweeper", BEN "the striker", DOM "the enforcer", JAKE "the little ripper" and JJ "the achiever" finished the season in the same way it started... with fun and lots of gooooooals!

JAKE opened the score sheet with his left foot, followed 5 seconds later with a second from his right foot. Goal number 3 from JAKE followed very shortly after. This was too much for coach Dargan who promptly substituted him.

JAKE came back on a little later and made a long pass to BEN who blasted one home, rattling the upright and stretching the netting to breaking point.

WILL saved a goal from the line, chased and dribbled the ball up the pitch and mercilessly booted a goal past their worried looking defender.

The game was re-started from half way only to see JAKE put his long distance skills into practice by scoring from half way.

At half time the boys dropped to the ground around coach Dargan, ate oranges whilst listening to words of wisdom and inspiration.

The words of wisdom started the second half with an injury, the fired up Thunders kicked the ball into an unsuspecting opposition player and John "the ref" stopped play to have the victim carried off by his Mum. Luckily the young fella was back on 30 seconds later as if nothing had happened...???

A corner kick by JAKE saw BEN kick his second goal, a great piece of teamwork!

Next the Thunder went into defending mode with all 10 boys in the circle trying to kick it at the same time. The ball eventually broke free at the feet of AIDEN who dribbled the ball up the pitch to score a goal.

Never one to be left out the limelight JAKE also dribbled up the pitch to score his 5<sup>th</sup> goal. Interestingly he was substituted soon afterwards.... (JAKE please note, goals = being taken off!).

Throughout the game a red blur was seen around the pitch, later some concerned opposition parents were told "oh that's just NICK".

JJ had another great game with bursts of energy, great passing and team skills.

More defence followed by the Thunder with DOM and DAN being kept busy kicking the ball out or up the pitch. The defence was interrupted by a dashing goal by BEN with another run up the pitch and a rocket shot to the top right corner!

The season finished with a perfect execution of coach Dargan's passing drills. WILL kicked the ball from defence straight to AIDEN who put the last goal of the season to bed.

After the match finished the boys pretended to listen to coach Dargan whilst every eye diligently followed the lolly bag in John "the ref's" hand. Luckily the talk didn't go on for too long and the man of the match John "the ref" fed the poor starving players. All in all it was a great last match for a bunch of boys who look after each other both on and off the pitch. Well done Martin and Neil for your selfless time and devotion.

## UNDER 13/2 GIRLS (6)

### THORNLEIGH 2 vs MT ST BENEDICT 0

Another good, solid game from the Thunderettes, playing against a much improved Mt St Benedict side. ALANA, JAS, JESS S, and SOPHIE led the attack early, and were unlucky not to come away with some points. In fact, it wasn't until the second half that we managed to break through the Benes' defence, via a lovely piece of play by RACHEL who picked up a wayward ball near the back line and was able to dribble it close to the post and slip it through two defenders. Much gee'd up by this, the Thunderettes started throwing everything they had at Benes, with our second goal coming from a lovely cross by JAS which was deflected by JESS S into the line of JESS P, who again displayed her now trademark sky-ball over the heads of the backs and goalie and squeaked it under the post and into the back of the net. As always, our backs were outstanding, and our midfielders highly committed, and our attack super hungry for the ball.

All in all, a fantastic game from every player, and we're all looking forward to another great game in the Pennant Finals next week.

## UNDER 13/2 GIRLS (7)

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs PUTNEY RANGERS 2

The girls had a valiant fight in their final game of the season and if it wasn't for three minutes where they fell asleep straight after half time this result could have been very different. The Player of the Match TAHLIA LANG defended out of her skin and wasn't afraid to tackle any size player. Her big kicks fed beautifully to SOPHIE DENCH and HANNAH CRANE who in turn had some beautiful passing to CLAIRE NEWLAND and LAURA BRAMWELL. KIRA MILLER never stopped going after the ball and her persistence paid off as the ball stayed in attack for ages and gave HANNAH TAYLOR some frustratingly close attempts at goal. ANNA BRAMWELL played sweeper beautifully and made sure that there was very few attacking opportunities for the opposition. CLAIRE NEWLAND and EMMA FERGUSON both went for sensational runs and showed their team spirit with some great passes.

CLAUDIA NITSCHKE used her speed to ensure the biggest of attackers couldn't get around her and likewise DIANA CAVILL used her big boot to stand up to some huge attackers.

With the season coming to an end we wanted to take the opportunity to say how proud we are of the girls and how far they have come in a season. A team that has improved so dramatically, kept the close and friendly team spirit, and let the love of the game shine through has been a joy to be part of. WELL DONE girls you should all feel very proud.



## UNDER 14/2

**PENNANT GAME 2 – Sunday 10 August 2008**

**THORNLEIGH 0 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 3**



As background - this Pennant Competition included an under 15 side which we played today. As a general observation, the size difference had a definite impact on Thornleigh's confidence and looked like the earlier games in the season when we were in Division 1. But having said that, the team played their hearts out and never let up. A special mention to our keepers who were worked hard – SAMMIE, SYLVIA and TAYLOR (debut). The backs were kept on their toes with BRITTANY, ALISSIA, ALYCE and LISA all challenging and marking players out of the game. Our mid-field were fragmented but they also ran their hearts out helping out defensively with TESS, SHELBY, OLIVIA, SYLVIA and TAYLOR. A few of the girls were less intimidated by the opposition - SAMMIE, ALYCE, ALISSIA and JESSICA, all had great games punching the ball through every challenge. Our poor forwards, GEORGIA and LAUREN struggled to make any traction as they were not getting much ball and they were overwhelmed by the opposition's size, but this didn't dampen their enthusiasm. The Player's Player was awarded to ALISSIA ODDI. All-in-all a great effort girls.

## UNDER 16/1 GIRLS

**THORNLEIGH 2 vs NORMANHURST 1**

What a fantastic finish to the 2008 season!!!

This was the last match of the Championship round robins – next week the top two teams play in the Championship final. Following our first two round robin losses, numbers girl Maddy Brown calculated that we needed to beat Normo 10-nil to have a chance of getting into the final - a tall order since they beat us 6-2 and 4-0 in the premierships rounds.

So the Thunderettes went into the match totally relaxed with the message from Craig to just enjoy their soccer. We were not expecting a win, particularly since keeper FIONA SPARKES and everywhere-girl DANI CHARARA were out crook.

MADDY BROWN pulled on the No. 1 jersey with a smile, despite not wanting to. But she played brilliantly, saving everything except a direct penalty – you're a champ Maddy!!!

The girls played out of their skins, and Normo looked quite ordinary compared to our previous meetings. Perhaps they were expecting to win – a big mistake in anyone's book. Although the first 10 minutes were played in our half, our great defence kept them out. BEC WICKHAM and GEORGIE DINAN were terrific and DANA HALEVI ran everything down on the left wing with boundless energy – by far her best performance this season. The one good shot Normo had on goal went straight to the keeper, and MADDY held on to it tightly! Then in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute ANNALESE SMITH latched onto a long ball (possibly from one of Maddy's kicks) and ran like a hare (sorry... I mean gazelle!) to slot home the opening goal of the match. With this goal, the Thunderettes appeared to gain more confidence and closed out the first half one up.

If Annalese is a gazelle then ARI O'NEILL is a bullet! My god she can run! She started the second half up front to try her luck, and pulled off a brilliant move to cross the ball in front of the goal mouth and ever so close for LUCY JONES to latch onto... almost. Ari is a rising star – no doubt about it. At 13 minutes into the second half an unfortunate reflex hand-ball in our box set up a penalty which Normo slotted home to even the scores. Was it all going to slip away from here? Nails were chewed, voices went hoarse, more hair went grey and a lone hair was pulled out as Normo increased the tempo. But they couldn't stop the old SMITH-JONES one-two as ANNALESE made a trademark run up the right flank crossing a beauty to LUCY to slam into the net. Wow! It was a piece of play to bring tears to the eyes. Two-one up on the only team our girls couldn't previously get close to! Could we hold them out? Craig and Mel immediately loaded up our defensive line but Normo instantly broke through from the kick-off for a shot on goal which was again collected by MADDY. Two other Normo shots surprisingly went wide until the Thunders re-collected themselves to shut out the relentless Normo attack for the final 10 minutes.

And the whistle blew three times..... Everyone on the sideline was stunned, Normo and Thunder supporters alike. This was an unexpected result and all credit to our mighty Thunderettes who once again showed they can match AND BEAT the best division 1 teams. They ARE one of the best!

Great season, Girls! Awesome finish! Savour this moment as you sign up in 2009!

## UNDER 16/2

**GRAND FINAL - THORNLEIGH 2 vs RYDE DISTRICT 2**

Both teams were in a deadlock in the first half with no real play going on. We were nil-all at half time. In the second half both teams came out hoping to break the deadlock, and unfortunately Ryde did with two quick goals. Our mood darkened. Fighting back late in the second half, PITCH crossed a ball to MATT who ran up to the keeper, who unfortunately got a hand to it. Luckily HARRY and MATT were able to put it in. Our second ball was also a bit of a scramble with the keeper. Fortunately MATT was able to put it through the keeper's fingers. This second goal came just before the final whistle. The boys showed outstanding will and commitment to come back from 2 nil down and score both goals in the remaining 13 minutes. We went to 20 minutes of extra time and STEVE pulled off a magnificent shot which hit the crossbar, and defying all odds - and the hopes and prayers of the many Thornleigh supporters - came back out again.

So at the end of the 20 minutes the result was Joint Premiership with RYDE. We can remember so much from this game. We are extremely proud of their effort. A superb performance with a remarkable comeback, showing tenacious fighting qualities that are priceless. The boys' celebrations from each goal were heart warming, they are tight mates. And, that triple back flip by Matty Lowe from the second goal was AMAZING simply summed up the comeback.! Well done boys, parents and supporters. THUNDER!!

Good luck to you all in the offseason, "Joey" best wishes with your studies and "Pasty" have fun with those funny games they play in Ireland! Send your address we want a base for some back packing holidays!!!

## ALL AGE WOMEN/4

### THORNLEIGH 0 vs KENTHURST 1

The atmosphere for the last championship round between Thorns and Kenthurst was tense. Our girls really worked hard the whole game and gave Kenthurst a run for their money. We were really hopeful and played well enough to deserve a win. Great try at goals by AMY, JESS, JACQUI, LAURA & MARYAM. Persistent defence by ADELAIDE prevented Kenthurst scoring right at the goal mouth. Constant defence by LAURA kept Kenthurst under pressure throughout the game. After half time scores still nil all, but unfortunately the only way Kenthurst scored their winning point was from a penalty shot which showed that our defence was constant and their determination would not have allowed Kenthurst to score otherwise. MEL did a fantastic job as our goalie, her constant attention and perfect goalie skills were greatly appreciated. I hope all of the girls are extremely proud of their efforts. It was a fantastic and a fast paced game to watch from the sideline. Thanks for all of the supporters that turned up for what turned out to be our last game for the season. A great end of season match, with all girls trying with everything they had. A mighty effort, Thorns.

## ALL AGE/6

### GRAND FINAL - THORNLEIGH 1 vs BEECROFT 1

Joint Champions. You can't spell it without champions. Finally this team got (half of) the tag they deserve. The one day we had been wanting most all year came and it saw The Thunder play out a thrilling, tense battle with undefeated league leaders Beecroft. The spectators that brought their seats only needed the edge as it was a frantic match from the first whistle right to the very last. The Thunder were extra fired up for this one and were able to take the game to Beecroft right from the get go. There were a few nervous moments to start with but any tummy butterflies were settled when AARON BOOTH slotted home our first in the 14th minute after a lovely assist from PAT CHAPMAN. The complexion changed soon after with the loss of defensive rock BENTON JOHNSON to a knee injury causing a reshuffle. There were some fraught moments with The Thunder lucky to survive two goal mouth scrambles but unfortunately the third saw the ball pop out to a Wombat who returned it with venom to equalise on the half hour mark. The strike just a touch too far for keeper MARK DENNIS who had another outstanding game. There were obviously a few nerves starting to creep back into the Thunder defence with a few panicky tackles ultimately leading to a Beecroft penalty. Fortunately the gravity of the situation must have been a bit too much to bear for the taker and his shot ricocheted off the crossbar and we were able to defend the rebound. The score remained the same until half time where the talk was of composure and playing the ball to feet rather than through the air as it was getting us nowhere. The second half was much the same as the first. Neither side able to break the other down although as time went on it did feel like The Thunder were starting to get on top. This was threatened though with the loss of midfielders BRAD RUSTON to injury and inspirational captain MURRAY GRAVES to a second yellow. This is when The Thunder rallied and really got going. TIM MORISON was everywhere and AARON BOOTH played his best game of the year doing more defending than he likes but the work-shy fop we're used to seeing was absent today. We had some half chances with some late corners but despite the best efforts of RICHARD HULOWATYI and ANDY BOUGHTON throwing themselves at the ball we couldn't quite get that vital goal. So it went to extra time and golden goal. This didn't phase The

Thunder who in fact seemed more fired up for the last 20 minutes than ever. They weren't going to be denied this day. We continued to throw everything we had at Beecroft and looked to have the lion's share of possession but we just couldn't convert the chances. Some excellent defending from DAVID POWER kept heads cool at the back even after losing lynch pin JAMES RODGER to injury. The boys dug their heels in for the final few minutes to grind out the result. So it ended in a draw and a joint championship. It wasn't quite an empty feeling but not the same as an outright win. But it was satisfying nonetheless. We didn't deserve to lose and if goals were awarded for effort everyone would have scored a hat-trick. GREG RUSTON and SIMON WATERHOUSE defended manfully. ANDREW LISCOE ran like a train (he puffs and doesn't stop too well) in the midfield, ROSS EDWARDS worked his butt off down the left and ANDREW WAGG wasn't afraid to get physical when the chips were down. Special thanks too must go to the suspended MARK KENNEDY and injured (kids, if you want to play in a grand final wait till after said final to play with your boat motor) ROB ZWATRZKA for providing some side line inspiration. We couldn't have made it without them. So, a loss last year, a draw this year, if this run keeps going next year will be a grand final win for The Thunder.

## ALL AGE WOMEN/10

### THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST RYDE 0

Well after a season of only drawing in 1 match, we have won our last 2 games for the pennant rounds. This team plays with passion and never gives up and I have said this all season. We went out today with the intention of putting in everything for our last match. In our first half we went with a force to move forward towards the goal and we spent most of the first half in our half. AMANDA had about 3 attempts at goal but unfortunately she missed all 3. ALI kept trying her little heart out to get her 2nd goal. We kept pushing through and had attempts on goal from ANGELA, ANG, and FRANCES. The last 10 minutes of the first half we got a penalty, ANNA took the penalty and after missing so many this season got the ball through the goalie's legs. We were so excited, but as LISA said let's keep our mind on the full game. The 2nd half we come out fired up again, and in the first minute we scored again, from a through ball to ANNA who smashed the ball and almost reached the goal and ANG just had to tap it in to make it our second goal. West Ryde kept pushing our defence line in the second half but today we had the person of the match, ALICE, who had a cracker of a game playing the first time in defence, kicking and tackling the ball from West Ryde's frustration. MEAGHAN and LISA also had a cracker of a match holding the defence line and stopping West Ryde in their tracks. Our goalie KATHY saved so many great balls, and read the game so well. KRISTEN had great passes in the game which helped our results as well. We had also many balls pass the goal mouth but unfortunately we where not able to capitalise on them, with FRANCES frustrations. Great game girls and a great season, next season will see us play stronger together if it's any indication from our last 2 matches. Job well done. Anna Barbagallo

