



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

2-3 May 2009



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 12pm

Email to: ThunderMatchReports@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Perfect weather for a weekend of soccer. By this stage most teams have settled in for a challenging and hopefully rewarding season, even though many teams were only playing their second match. I was fortunate to see two of our under 17 teams play this weekend. The 17/1 had a convincing win with a brilliant header in the second half to secure a two - nil win against West Penno. The 17/3 put on an entertaining match against Hills Hawks with many near misses. However, a late surge failed to get them across the line and they went down 4-3.

Just a reminder that jackets, caps and shirts are available and are generally for sale on Saturday mornings at Oakleigh. They have been selling very well and I would suggest you contact Craig Denyer or the marketing team if you are interested in purchasing these items.

Please remember to exercise your duty of care with young players at games and practice sessions. Players need to be supervised at all times and coaches or managers should not leave them unattended. Parents need to ensure that they pick up their child on time or contact the coach or manager if they are going to be late.

The season is looking to be a good one for Thornleigh. Our player numbers are the highest they have ever been and our teams are well resourced and supported. Let's keep working together to make this a satisfying season for all concerned.

Yours in Commitment
Rob Roberts

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 2 May 2009			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	Pacific Hills Dural	1	2
U9/7	Roselea	0	4
U9/8	Redfield Lions	1	0
U10/3	Beecroft	2	1
U11/2	Epping YMCA	0	4
U11/6	All Saints Hunters Hill	0	7
U12/3	North Epping Rangers	1	4
U13/2	West Ryde Rovers	1	4
U14/4	Roselea	1	0
U15/4	West Pennant Hills	2	2
U17/1	West Pennant Hills	2	0
U17/3	Hills Hawks	3	4
AA/4	West Pennant Hills	2	0
AA/7	West Pennant Hills	4	0
AA/10	North Ryde	2	3
AA/12	Epping Eastwood	5	0
AA/16	Ryde District	2	4
AA/18	West Pennant Hills	7	0
AA/20	Epping Eastwood	5	4
O35/2	Glenhaven	2	1
O35/5	Gladesville	0	2
PL/Res	West Pennant Hills	0	2
PL/1 st	West Pennant Hills	2	1

NWSWS Competition – 3 May 2009			
Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U14/1	Mount St Benedict	7	0
U14/2	Kenthurst	1	4
U15/2	West Pennant Hills	1	1
U17/1	Ryde Saints United	2	3
U18/1	Mercy College	10	0
AA/4	Gladesville Ravens	1	1
AA/10	West Pennant Hills	2	0
O/35	BYE		



THUNDER FC SPONSORS - 2009 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 2009 season and encourage everyone associated with Thunder FC to support these local businesses.

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UNDER 6 AAAS

THORNLEIGH AAAs 6 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 4

An impressive start for the AAA's with a dogged showing from both sides. The AAA's were definitely fully charged before the start of their inaugural match. Within moments WPH nearly gained the upper hand, however, a blink later and JAMES had fired a goal home.

Chaos erupted as another game merged onto the field. Taking advantage of the confusion WPH attacked again – the ball bounced off the left goal post! WPH pulled ahead but AAA pegged back the margin every time with strong performances from JAMES and JACK. EUAN and DAVID thwarted several goal attempts while LIAM, JASMINE and HUGH maintained defensive pressure. HUGH kept on the attack with JAMES finding the back of the net, time and again.

In the dying moments of the game, AAAs pulled ahead and despite valiant efforts WPH was unable to close the gap. The final whistle brought to an end an incredibly action packed first game and a wonderful start to the season.

UNDER 6 GREEN

THORNLEIGH vs WEST PENNANT HILLS

In our first outing of the season the boys had a great time. We got a lot of practice at defence, where MITCHELL, COOPER and MICHAEL did a fantastic job. ANDREW's clearing kicks were sensational, regularly sending play to the other end of the park. Player of the week NATHAN was everywhere, consistently making breaks and being in the thick of things. ROHAN and LOGAN provided enthusiastic support around the edges of the ruck. ROHAN and ANDREW came closest to scoring a goal, although admittedly one was at the wrong end of the park just after half time – this changing ends thing is still a little confusing.

UNDER 6 RED

THORNLEIGH 3 vs PENNANT HILLS 2

Last Saturday morning saw the seven team members of Thornleigh U6 Red kick-off their 2009 soccer season. From the time they first took to the field to the game's final whistle each had put in a monumentous performance. Thornleigh were definitely on top but it was Pennant Hills who scored first against the run of play. This proved to be no deterrent as our guys levelled with a brilliantly struck goal from JACK BIDWELL. It was great to see the players looking to pass to each other which was demonstrated well by HARRISON HOWARD. No player was hesitant in getting involved, particularly ALISTAIR WESTON who even wanted to take the kick-ins for Pennant Hills. The team went to the break at one apiece. After having their refill on oranges and water the team returned for the second half and soon found themselves behind again after a second Pennant Hills goal. Again, the team responded. ANDREW HILL and ZACHARY DUNLOP seemed to be everywhere in both defence and attack but it was JESSICA DARGAN who broke from the pack and slotted in Thornleigh's second goal. However, this was not good enough...not for our young soccer heroes and they went in search of the third goal. The team's defence tightened with AXIE TADZIK taking up his preferred role on the pitch. After taking a fall and having a quick sideline break it was JESSICA DARGAN who dusted herself off, came back on and put away Thornleigh's third and winning goal. What a great first up result for the team! The season ahead is surely looking bright. The Best & Fairest award was presented after the game. This was awarded to JACK BIDWELL. Congratulations JACK!

U6 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH 'B' V THORNLEIGH 'C'

Parents and siblings lined up excitedly on the touchline as coach MATT RICHMOND took THORNLEIGH 'B' through their warm-up and stretching exercises for the first match of their soccer careers. As the referee blew the whistle for the start of the match everyone admired the enthusiasm with which the boys and girls got stuck in. OLIVER JENNINGS took first shot at goal, only to be denied by a dense patch of grass which brought the ball to halt just shy of the goal. However, he wasn't to be denied as he scythed through the opposition a second time to plant the ball at the back of the net. THOMAS RICHMOND took a superb corner kick working the ball through the huddle of players and right across the goal mouth. The ball was just asking to be tapped in but the opportunity was missed with no player in position. The opposition fought back hard and JAYATH GUNAWARDENA tracked back effortlessly to nick the ball just in time to save a certain goal. What a hero! After well-timed substitutions ROBBIE FERGUSON combined neatly with CONNOR DOWNEY with a wonderful through ball; CONNOR DOWNEY took the ball in his stride, ran it down the touchline, took it back in-field before finally slotting it past the non-existent goalie. Magic. The half-time oranges disappeared before you could say 'apple'. Then back on for another exciting half. NOAH TIKOFT disrupted the opposition's tight defensive patterns with some quality off-the-ball movements, continually finding and creating space. OSCAR BIASON took advantage to make his mark with another goal for the home team. The opposition worked hard to score a few goals themselves for the match to be an even contest. The whistle blew and the game finished with lots of high-5s between the teams and the boys and girls having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done to all.

UNDER 6 WHITE C

THORNLEIGH C vs THORNLEIGH B

After a long awaited and much anticipated start to the season the U6 Bs dazzled and amazed their fans with a superb display of the skills attained at the KickStart sessions. Within the first minute of the match ANNALISE KAIN was on the attack and NICHOLAS WEICKART scored the first of his many goals. MITCHELL BLACK followed with some brilliant defence, keeping the ball well and truly heading toward our end of the field. Although we caught the opposition by surprise, they soon levelled the score and kept our team busy, with AJAY YUVARAJ chasing down the ball and ADELE WILLIAMS doing some great kicking to bring the ball back towards our goals. After some fantastic chasing in the second half, FLYNN TAYLOR broke through the defence, scoring a goal to loud applause! This combined with a kick-in and accurate passing by SEAN MCALLISTER and solid defence by LUC FENTON made for a very tight match. Well done everyone!



UNDER 7 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 3 vs HILLS HAWKS 4

The first game of the season for the Under 7 Green team was a very close affair with the HILLS HAWKS clinching a win in the last minutes of the game. The UNDER 7 GREENS all played very well, with BEN taking out Player of the Week in his first game of Soccer for the Club, showing great enthusiasm for the game. There were some exceptional saves in defence with EDDIE saving a most certain goal in the first half by stopping the ball in mid flight with a clever volley kick. JACOB had some good shots at goal and was rewarded with the first goal for the team in the first half. This was followed by goals from CALLUM and MASON in the second half. LACHLAN and TOM were strong in their running and defensive play, stopping further attacking opportunities by the HAWKS. The team's passing between players and movement into free space, as was practiced in training, showed encouraging signs for the remainder of the season.

UNDER 7 RED A

THORNLEIGH A vs REDFIELD

It seems like we're already halfway through the season owing to the washed out game 1 and the break for holidays and whatnot, but we've hit the ground running from what we saw today. The first half was pretty tight, Redfield going one up on several occasions and then Thornleigh coming right back at them. Highlights of the first half included MARK's long range equaliser and some fierce defence from TIMON. The second half saw us pull away a little, as the players remembered how to play from last year. ASHLEY scored a nice solo effort, and AINSLEY set one up for MITCHELL to finish off. The tackling was a feature of this game. I don't know if this is just because U7 is that much older or not, but HARRY contributed well in the mid-field all game. Special mention to ELLY who I think played her first game today, and showed how much a positive attitude can overcome those early nerves.

Well done boys and girls on the first win for 2009.



UNDER 7 RED B

THORNLEIGH B vs HILLS HAWKS

The boys were all excited to finally get out on the field and play their first match after so many weeks of Kickstart and training. It was the two new boys in the team that shone on the day. MICHAEL was always there providing support and great defence, blocking numerous Hawk balls and scoring the first spectacular goal of the season. CHRISTOPHER scored the other goal of the day speeding down the field to kick a fantastic goal in the second half. MYLES came close to scoring with some awesome "Beckham" style kicks, his speed all over the field helped block the attacking Hawks. Some great defence stopped the Hawks from scoring (too much). CHARBEL was everywhere with some great attacks, displaying great control of the ball. MAX got some big kicks in, also nearly scoring, unfortunately that big Hills Hawk kid got in the way. THOMAS and WILL supported the team well, providing some great kicks towards goal. The coaches ADAM and GRAHAM are doing a really good job with the team, and the team supporters are looking forward to more.



Player of the Week:
CHRISTOPHER
SOMANI

UNDER 7 WHITE AAA

THORNLEIGH A vs GLENHAVEN

Our first game was against Glenhaven and the team showed plenty of promise for the season ahead. ISABELLE NATOLI mixed it with the boys with some hard tackles and made several good breaks. TRAVIS HILTON was the star of the game carefully positioning himself in open space and ended up with 5 goals. JASMINE WILLIAMS came back onto the field after a knock early in the game to score her 1st goal of the season. LAURA DIBLASIO was unlucky not to score missing a couple of chances. Playing above his age, LUKE WILLIAMS had a good first game and is only going to get better. HUGH GORDON made some valuable defensive contributions at the back. KURT TIKOFT was enthusiastic as ever and had a solid game.

UNDER 7 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH WHITE B vs THORNLEIGH WHITE C

A quick start to the game, JACQUELINE gets a shot at goal after less than 30 sec, a near miss. RILEY comes off the bench and is straight into it with good offensive play resulting in a goal, then backs up with a great save after chasing the length of the field. LUCAS and LIAM both have shots at goal with some big kicks. Another great effort from RILEY to run half the field to score, cheered on by JACQUELINE, then another great save. In the second half LIAM and LUCAS pair for a goal from LUCAS, some good tackling from MATTHEW and a huge shot at goal from the side by MIKA. A great local derby from teams that are mates off the field. Player of the week – RILEY. Merit award to MIKA.

UNDER 7 WHITE C

THORNLEIGH WHITE C 0 vs THORNLEIGH WHITE B 3

What an awesome start to the season, 7 eager players, lots of supporters to cheer them on and beautiful weather. JORDAN, JESSE, NIAMH, TAJ and JACK showed us their skills learned in previous seasons. They were rearing to go. JESSE tried hard for a goal with some great runs and kicks but unfortunately was stopped too many times. TAJ did some awesome runs with the ball and tried hard to score too. At one point he took a tumble and ensured that his hands did not touch the ball, fun for the supporters to watch! JACK showed some great big kicks and JORDAN showed us his fantastic running skills. NIAMH did well and almost scored a goal only to be out run and defended by Thornleigh B. Our two newest players to soccer this season, ALEXANDRIA and CLAIRE did really well, they showed us some great kicks and runs! Well done everyone. TAJ got player of the match for his awesome spirit on the field.

UNDER 8 BLUE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs GLENHAVEN 11

Everyone was fired up for the first game of the season and moving onto the bigger field was going to test the boys out.

The game started off at frantic pace with the Glenhaven boys well oiled on this new format, JAMES RICKWOOD had plenty of opportunities in goal during the first half with his goals constantly under attack. The first half saw our guys taking it all in and watching how the game was progressing, we walked off at half time 8 goals down. A calm half time talk by the coach and a little more refocusing brought the boys back to life. Some excellent chasing and never die attitude from new recruit JIMMY SHRUB saw him take out the best player for the Thunder. Some great passing from JJ RICKWOOD and JAKE DARGAN allowed BEN COLLEY to sneak through one of his two goals. NIC COLLEY certainly put a few km's in with end to end running chasing the ball, a much improved defensive effort from DAN BIDWELL and DOMINIC METHODARKIS stopped plenty of raids on goal. AIDAN ELLIOT took to goal in the second half and not knowing whether to pick the ball up or kick definitely confuse the opposition and the coach in the second half. WILLIAM SPARGO had another solid game and a big clash with one of the Glenhaven boys saw the sponge come out with the magic water to fix him up.

The second half showed what the team is capable of and some extra effort at training this week will certainly put the team in good stead for their first home game this weekend.

UNDER 8 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ALL SAINTS HUNTERS HILL B 8

What a great start to the season to have the whole team front up and ready to go. From the first blow of the whistle it was on for young and young. MASON OATES was the first goalie of the season and managed to save many of the continuous attempts at goal from the opposition side. The scoreline does not reflect the intensity of the game, with numerous attempts at opposition goal pioneered by CASANDRA HILL and JAYDEN TAOUK (congratulations to JAYDEN on your first game and first goal all in one). In the second half ADELAIDE GIFFNEY played as goalie and managed to deflect many attempts with valour. OLIVIA FLACK and VERONICA JOHNS naturally took positions as centres, with JAMIE PAYNE and IRIS YUAN constantly kept busy in defence. Unannounced player of the day – MASON OATES for goal defence and striker capability – well done team!

UNDER 8 RED

THORNLEIGH 2 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS A 2

What a beautiful, sunny morning to start the first match of the season and for some players, this was their first match experience. Carlingford Redbacks A started the game with the first kick-off and it was a closely matched game all the way. From the start there was excellent defence, firstly by DYLAN WELGEMOED and then by BLAKE RYAN. A great tackle by RUBEN MOUTON led him to score the first goal of the match. This nail biting match displayed excellent teamwork and offensive manoeuvres from all players. CONNOR CLARKE showed great passing skills that almost scored another goal by RUBEN MOUTON. DYLAN WELGEMOED saved the ball going out of bounds and passed it to MATTHEW PINES who drove the ball towards the goal. RUBEN MOUTON consistently took the ball downfield and shot on goal. BLAKE RYAN supported with excellent kicking and MATTHEW PINES showed good control and passing skills. EMMA SANCATALDO impressed with her continuous goal saving and EMMA CARRIGAN displayed great team work and offensive manoeuvres. THEA SCHMERTMANN had her eye on the ball all the way and displayed incredible passing skills. LUKE BIRRELL led the team to a nail biting finish with great throws and passes and MATTHEW PINES completed the game by scoring the last goal. Well done team, you did us all proud! With such an enthusiastic start, we are in for a great season.

UNDER 8 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 10 vs NORMANHURST 0

This was round 2 but effectively our first game of the season, and what a great game they played. The team is learning positions this year and everyone had a chance at defending and in attack, but we had a little to do on defence as we were in all-out-attack-mode with BRADLEY HOWARD scoring our first goal and eventually ending up with 2 goals. JORDAN-LEE BACON also got his first goal of the season and celebrated with doing the 'aeroplane' (too much tv). Our off season signing in ISAAC LANE, was definitely a good buy, with him snatching 3 great goals as well as being a pillar of strength in defence. DANIEL PATTERSON was his usual self and having great runs from the midfield to the goals and got 2 meat pies (goals) for his effort. MORGAN HUGHES aka little Beckham, selflessly offered to be goalkeeper for the first half, and in the 2nd half changed to the forward position and made some great runs and had some great long range shots but wasn't able to get his meat pie, not to worry though, we can just see a great goal coming off his right boot very soon. As for our family duo of TARA and JARET WILSON, what great games they both had. JARET WILSON, being one of the smaller boys in the team always gives 200% and a tiger in defence and never gives an inch. TARA is going to be a menace for other teams as she too never gives up and has a great right boot on her as well and a goal is coming her way very soon. OLIVER DEWEY had a great game as well, with his strength and booming boot upfront he's going to take a lot of stopping this season and he too picked up 2 meat pies for the game. All up we ended up winning the game 10 nil and a great start to the 2009 soccer season.



UNDER 9/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs PACIFIC HILLS DURAL 2

It was great to have the whole team together for the first time this season. The first half saw Pacific Hills Dural score twice. Our team showed strong defence in the back and our first half goalkeeper LEWIS HABKOUK again used his big boot to keep the ball in opposition territory. The second half was dominated by Thornleigh. A penalty gave us our first chance in the second half to score with JOSHUA WATKINS narrowly missing. Unrelenting Thornleigh pressure and great teamwork through superior ball passing saw us finally score. The team played really well and the score belied our dominant play over Pacific Hills Dural particularly in the second half. Our goalkeeper CODY JERVIS had little work to do. Congratulations to this weeks Player of the Week MATTHEW BUTLER, Goal of the Week JOSHUA WATKINS and Teamwork Award recipient LEWIS HABKOUK.

UNDER 9/7

THORNLEIGH 0 vs ROSELEA 4

The team played away this week at Carlingford Oval against Roselea. In the first half the opposition was on the front foot pushing though our defence keeping us in our territory for most of the first Half. DANIEL DRAPER had an outstanding run in goals, constantly under fire in the first half - he did a fantastic job, that earned him the Man of the Match, keeping Roselea's lead to 2. ZACH, BRENDAN AND NICK W also pitched in hard to keep Roselea at bay with some solid defensive play pushing the ball out of the danger zone. DANIEL MALLET played a dynamic game covering much of the field intercepting any loose ball. In the second half the team started to kick back into top gear demonstrating solid team play - ROBBIE, CHRIS and NICK HO were unlucky not to score a goal. LOUISA and DANIEL MERRICK were rock solid in defence keeping Roselea away from the goals and making sure the ball was kept in the hands of our team. In a fast running half TRISTAN and BRAIDEN did well covering most of the field defending and feeding the ball forward to our forwards. In the end the team lost 0-4 in what was a hard game.

UNDER 9/8

THORNLEIGH 1 vs REDFIELD LIONS 0

Again we had a fun game with a hunky-dory ending! Neither JACK FERGUSON nor WILLIAM GRANT had a busy job. But when the ball came towards our goal, they proved to be the right choice and did a great job! OLIVER GORDON as well as MATTHEW PERRIMAN showed us the skills a great defender needs. Hardly any ball got past them. Right before them were AMY LAWS and LARA HOWELLS who never gave in and always kept on fighting for position and didn't give any space to the opposition. MADISON KIRKPATRICK, MARCUS GRANT as well as DANIEL CLYNCH did an excellent job in working the ball between the defence and the forwards and vice versa. All the hard work at training paid off. Always in the right spot were LIAM GODFREY, JOSHUA MUCH and ETHAN GODFREY. No matter if they were supposed to be Midfield, Defence or Forward, the excelled in any given task! Before the opposition really had found into the game, THOMAS DAKIN surprised their defence and kicked a fabulous goal. Encouraged by that, CONOR DRUMM kept on attacking the Goal but unfortunately he wasn't rewarded for his efforts.

UNDER 10/3

THORNLEIGH 2 vs BEECROFT 1

Another fine game from the team this week with a slower start from the previous week but a very impressive finish. The 15 of us were up against 10 from the Beecroft who put in a solid performance until they got their 11th player for the second half. During the first half we had plenty of the ball but just missed sealing the deal on many occasions. Plenty of great attempts for goal came from LACHLAN DUNLOP, YASHAR ELLIIN and NATHAN POLLOCK until TOM McDOWALL put the first one away from some great lead up work from our backs TOM KENNEDY and BEN KNIGHT. With Beecroft scoring and equalizing with a beautiful run away goal the boys knew it was time to kick in for some big efforts which they did. HARRISON DARGAN did wonders in goals once again with some great help in defence from HARRISON DAVEY, WILLEM OATES and RORY MADDEN who all stepped up for the second half attack. The mid field this week had a big job to do and with the likes of ALEX COHEN GIBSON, HARLEY FERRIS and VEERAN MUDALIAR we were safe as these guys really put in the big ones to steer the defence and drive the attack throughout the game. The "Man of the Match" went to JOSH NATOLI who carved up the mid field playing a major part in the game and the winning goal allowing VEERAN to put it away for the victory. Well done team.

UNDER 12/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 4

I blame the cross-country on Friday! Well, that and a good opposition.... From the first whistle, Thornleigh was under pressure for most of the match. The defensive line of MAX KENNEDY, NATALIE BARKER, ANDREW HADDAD and TAMYKA WILLIAMS were fighting for every ball and clearing many attacks, but only several outstanding saves from BEN MANCE in goals kept Rangers from scoring. In midfield, DANIEL FOWLER, JASON CLARKE and EAMON MOSES were trying hard, and RYAN MALLET was his normal tigerish self, winning many tackles. Then, to prove the hackneyed cliché that 'football is a funny game', we scored on virtually our first attack, with a wicked corner from CALLUM TOOHEY (who was everywhere today) being deflected in by a Rangers player in the 17th minute. This lifted the team's confidence, but unfortunately just before half time, Rangers got what was a well deserved equaliser. At half time we were still in it, but a couple of goals to Rangers early in the second half put paid to our chances. However, Thunder showed good spirit, never giving up despite obvious tiredness and an opposition with their tails up. BEN JONES and SLADE BLANCH were trying their best up front to pull a goal back, but the loss of our passing game from the previous week meant they did not get too see too much of the ball. A late goal to Rangers made the score look a bit worse than it should have, but our players can be proud of their effort and sportsmanship and next week is another game!



UNDER 13/2

THORNLEIGH 1 vs WEST RYDE 4

To celebrate the fact that the season finally feels like it's really under way, the sun was shining and the BBQ was sending up smoke signals aplenty.

However, one look at the opposition, which was comprised mainly of super cereal-fed players, soon gave us an indication of how this game was going to pan out.

The Rovers played a tight team game all the way through, showing our mighty Thunder-ites what they need to work harder towards this season, whilst building upon our already strong skills.

In the first half, Will and Adrian in the middle of the park showed their usual pace and skill in pushing forward; TOM LOWE and CAMERON were once again doing their magic up the right side towards goal, and were unlucky several times not to convert. The Rovers defence worked well and BLAKE didn't get much in the way of opportunities to showcase his goal poaching skills.

JOSH, JULIAN, MAX & CAMPBELL stood their ground in defence, and MITCH was outstanding in goals, however Rovers scored 2 goals and we went into half-time 2-nil down. It was an accurate reflection of the game to that point as we were being outplayed by a team showing us that teamwork is the secret to good football.

We thought that Coach Bob might tell the players about Man Utd turning around a 2 goal deficit at the weekend to win 5-2 but for some reason, the diehard Spurs fan failed to mention this. Instead he kept his comments to the need for communication and the belief that we could still win.

We started the 2nd half brighter with Holly showing fantastic pace after being moved from midfield up to the forward line and Andre and Isaac really taking the challenge to Rovers in front of their goal. Sure enough, Andre went through on goal and was brought down by their keeper. A penalty it was but the ref kept his cards in his pocket.

The Man Utd – Spurs analogy was working, although Coach Bob did feel the need to point at that ours really WAS a penalty. We crossed everything, hoping for the same result for Andre, and he did us proud – great goal for Thornleigh.

JAY put in some solid kicks and had a long shot at goal which narrowly missed the net – Manager Chris was heard to comment, "That was a 70 yard shot!!" Men and their size comments....

But it wasn't to be. Rovers continued to work really well as a team and scored 2 more goals.

As the match went on it became more and more physical and there were actions on both sides that probably warranted cards. We have to learn not to let our frustrations boil over into overly physical play. If we don't want to be outplayed, then we have to do what the opposition does which is train hard and play as a team.

True to say Thunder didn't make the Rovers' job easy in the often-physical second half, but take heart in the fact that these early lessons will make the U 13s a much stronger team by season's end.

UNDER 14/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH (1's) 7 vs MOUNT ST BENEDICT (2's) 0

This was a strong confident display by the girls this week as they controlled the game from virtually the first kick of the ball. RACHEL TOMPKINS led the scoring with a hat trick before the end of the first half and was unlucky not to score more. BELINDA PUGH scored a great first goal of the season and JESS PEARSON got the second hat trick of the game. We saw the return of ANNA and Laura BRAMWELL from their European trip this week and they both immediately had big impact on the game fitting straight back into the team. The girls are in fine form and are looking forward to the big clash next week against Thornleigh (2's) !!

UNDER 14/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs KENTHURST 4

Our game this week (without our coach and mentor Marty) was against Kenthurst and produced a free flowing although at times physical encounter. The first half saw both teams right on their game with a number of chances missed.

Strong attacking raids from JAS, HANNA T & JOEY went unrewarded until the 20 minute mark when JOEY broke through and went all the way to score our first goal.

With great defence and guidance from Katherine (who must have run a half marathon throughout the game) our backline in BEC, CLAUDIA, JESS and HANNA C prevented our goal from being crossed.

By remaining in position and playing a disciplined game our girls came in a half time leading by the 1 goal.

The second half started like the first with our forwards LARISSA, DIANA & EMMA making opportunities We could have had another couple of goals only for some brave keeping by Kenthurst.

Somehow Kenthurst made a couple of breaks and scored twice.

ELLEN pulled off a number of vital saves to keep us in the game.

A penalty and another late goal saw us beaten 4-1 but everyone gave 110% and never stopped trying until the final whistle.

As the season rolls along we will continue to improve and understand the importance of positional play and that we can use the full width of the field.

A special thanks to VIRGINIA for her expertise in getting us through the game.

We look forward to the return of our coach next week. as our voices just don't cut it.

UNDER 14/4

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ROSELEA 0

All concerns of a strong adversary were put to rest as soon as the team settled into the game by the 5th minute when JACK ANGEL expertly timed and passed the ball to JACOB KOWALSKI for our first attempt at goal. From then on most of the game was played in the opposition's half due mainly to the brilliant play by the midfielders JIN LIM, ALEX PUN, THOMAS HIGGINS, MATTHEW FORD and SAMUEL LANE. The score certainly belies the number of times we had a chance at scoring, mostly off the boot of JACK ANGEL and JACOB KOWALSKI as well as THOMAS HIGGINS and SAMUEL LANE. It was OLIVER JUDSON that initiated the forward play to JACOB KOWALSKI which resulted in a pass to JACK ANGEL who scored the one and only goal of the match. Good thinking defence on the part of DALE EDWARDS and ALASDAIR BELLING ensured the opposition did not have many opportunities at goal. There were a few heart stopping moments though when they did come close, but luckily we had the expert hands of JOSHUA COOPER in the goals for the entire game. He has the confidence and experience to know when to come out of the goal area and when to stay put. We had quite a number of short corners that were brilliantly kicked by JACK ANGEL but which unfortunately were never converted to goals. The ability to convert opportunities into goals was like those nightmares where you are running away from something bad, but never seem to make any ground – those goals would just not come! Overall this was a great game and a vast improvement in game play can be seen already - the team are working well together, thinking about their passing and getting into better positions to be on the offensive. Congratulations to JACK ANGEL who has been elected as Captain and JOSHUA COOPER who is Vice-Captain. Also accolades to JIN LIM who was elected Man of the Match for the 2nd time in a row!

UNDER 15/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 1



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The first 15 minutes were mainly played in our half with a lot of pressure on defence. SAMMIE TRENAMAN was kept busy in goals making some daring off-the-line saves that kept the tension high. From there on THORNLEIGH lifted a gear and the game became more even, where the play cycled from one end to another for the remainder of the game. Unfortunately a WPH break away broke the deadlock just before half time. However, this galvanised THORNLEIGH's determination

where I'm sure the WPH spectators started to bite their fingernails because THORNLEIGH started to penetrate the WPH defences nearly scoring on several occasions. It wasn't till midway through the 2nd half that the equaliser was scored from a SAM TREES break-away followed by a solid shot. Notable players today included BRITTANY KNIGHT who deflected several attacks with some solid challenges and ALYCE TOMPKINS who defended with passion despite her feeling less than 100%. EMILIE LOWE ruled the centre with the help of JESSICA HARRIS who won most of her tackles and TESS SANT who also ran her heart out in mid-field. The Player's Player was shared by SAMANTHA TREES and EMILIE LOWE. Well done girls, this game was a real test against one of the more competitive teams so you can be proud of the outcome.

UNDER 15/4

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 2

First note: A BIG thank you to SAM LANE, JACOB KOWALSKI and JACK ANGEL for playing up for our boys the other week. We certainly appreciated your involvement during the holiday game. On this weeks game – West Pennant Hills did well to scratch out a draw against our boys. We were hoping the Blue and Gold would break through the opposition defence in the second half, but it wasn't to be. Still a truckload of cheer notes though – starting with MICHAEL GAMBLE'S killer kicks, one of which, sailing long and high from outside the box, snuck into the back of the net over the WPH goalie's head – nice one Gamble! Admirable modesty drove our second goal scorer, TIM LOVE, to play down his point – Mate – a goal is a goal. And besides, your speed does it for us every time! Well done. Play on the field saw HUW FISHER run some nice attacks down the sideline and JOHNNO HALL turn the play from defence to attack on many occasions. RHYS BRIOT, ANDREW CARDWELL, MICHAEL BRADLEY and JEREMEY TOOHEY all gave solid performances, holding position well. NATHAN QIN was strong in defence, keeping the ball pushed wide and WILL SOWDEN did well placing the ball into attack spaces. Encouraged by an enthusiastic cheer squad, ALEX CHARARA ran well on the line in attack, taking advantage of the wide passes from the backs and midfield. Sharing the goalie duties, CHARLIE GILLINGS and XAVIER BOUCHER provided aggressive last line defence with good eyes, sticky gloves and "show no fear" run out slide tackles, one of which brought Xavier to the injury bench through collision with the WPH attack crew. Good job boys – you've made a terrific start to the season and the positive reports from coach Craig of active listening and committed training are to your credit. Well done.

UNDER 17/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 2 vs RYDE SAINTS UNITED 3

Complacency is a killer. The girls were expecting a win today as they convincingly beat this team 5-1 just 4 weeks ago. But Ryde surprised, with a vastly stronger team including both attackers and defenders who were not present at the last match. The Thunders were caught unawares with a goal against scored in the sixth minute. However retaliation was swift with ANNALESE SMITH in centre-mid taking a back pass from the ensuing kick-off past all 11 opposition players and into the net. But our defence was split open again in the 11th minute when Saints scored their second. Our girls didn't play badly, they were just beaten by a better team on the day. FIONA SPARKES had a good first half in goals with "keeper!" calls loud enough to wake the neighbours in the Field of Mars. ARI O'NEILL our star sweeper supported the back line of MADDY BROWN, COURTNEY (CJ) BLANCH and KARA BRACKENRIG / STEPH THOMSON. A problem this year is that we have very few specialist defenders and a large pool of mid-fielders from whom defenders need to be drawn. But our girls played their hearts out and that's all anyone can expect.

In the 26th minute MEL D'ARCHY came to the rescue with one of her big ones from way out partly ripping the net from the posts for the 2-2 equaliser. Despite the tied score at half time, the game was lost in the first half with those two Saints goals, and our girls with only one sub were on a uphill battle in the second. KARA came back out with the gloves, FIONA went to left back and the remaining line-up was unchanged. Just 4 minutes in a "Mel D'Archy-type" boot from a Ryde striker found the mark.

This time the equaliser didn't eventuate, despite great performances from MADDY including a "no-bounce" header at half way off the keeper's punt kick, CLAIRE BUSHROD who continues to impress in her first season, VANESSA KRASSTEV also in her first season, LUCY JONES our stalwart striker, EVE WILCOX who made some great breaks up the right flank and some super centres, and CJ who did the same up the left resulting in a corner which came so close to the head of MEL in the goal mouth.

But as time went on the Thunders tired with only one sub as opposed to Ryde's four or five, and a draw would have been a good result. The fact that they kept the opposition at bay for the bulk of the second half and threatened to score on a number of occasions despite injuries and exhaustion, says heaps for them. Credit also to Ryde who played a competitive and clean brand of football and we look forward to our next encounter hopefully with a full bench of players.

UNDER 17/1

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

Our second game, and a win against the team that ripped us apart last year at the same venue (we lost 6-0), so the season looks promising, with two solid wins against some formidable opposition. We started with a goal early in the first half with LACHLAN (who we bribed to come back to the foal) was perfectly placed to launch the ball into the back of the net. From there the game see-sawed with both teams having some great chances and West Penno could have easily scored if it wasn't for some great work from our backs, who were able to hold their defensive line and catch West Penno offside, and some agile saves from JOHN. In the second half the "hard" training regime started to pay off with our boys starting to make some space down the flanks and West Penno tiring. Our second goal came from a sprint down the left sideline from CONNOR who perfectly crossed the ball into the goalmouth with MATT waiting for it to head into the net. One of those classical goals, which was perfectly executed. Great work forwards to put their goalie under pressure and create the opportunity.

UNDER 17/3

THORNLEIGH 3 vs HILLS HAWKS 4

This was a close and highly entertaining game. It was apparent from the outset that this Hawks team was a cut above last week's opposition, with keeper LUKE in the action early, making some solid saves. Strong play by the Hawks saw them score a goal after 12 minutes, 0 – 1. The Thunder re-grouped and came back strongly with MIKE as always winning possession, STEVE, KEL, LEROY, into everything. After numerous close calls, HARRY, whose speed gave the Hawks backs headaches throughout the game, managed to latch onto a through ball, 1-1, 24 mins. Subsequently the game evened out with chances to both sides, and some great work again by keeper LUKE. On 35mins HARRY was tripped in the area, LEROY converted the penalty, 2-1. The Hawks hit back with a well worked goal on 40 mins, 2-2. The first minutes of the second half saw a slightly questionable penalty to the Hawks duly converted, 2-3. Following some outstanding net repairs by the versatile Thunder boys which was appreciated by all, the Thunder pressed strongly and were dominating. However the slick Hawks forwards took advantage against the run of play and a quick counter attack saw them score, 2-4, 60mins. The Thunder were undaunted and continued to attack, being rewarded after 70 minutes with a Ronaldo-like drive from JACKSON outside the area finding the back of the net, 3-4 on 70mins. Further pressure from the Boys saw us all on the edges of our seats as the Thunder came close numerous times and counter attacking from the Hawks saw some more great saves by LUKE. The 17/3s, showed great spirit being down 2 goals, they just kept on coming and deserved at least a share of the points. Bad luck but a great game by all the boys.

U18/1 LADIES

THORNLEIGH 10 vs MERCY COLLEGE 0

What a great game and perfect "welcome home" for Coach Mark. Mark wanted double digits and he got them. The girls got to work quickly and the first goal was scored by HAYLEY early in the first half, following a great set-up by her team mates. This goal was followed by four more – a great sideline kick from FRAN, a fantastic follow through by ELYSE following a "double-header" and two more straight up the field goals by FRAN. At half time, the score was 5 – 0. Everyone was ecstatic. The only complaint heard was from goalie CLAIRE who was upset at the "inactivity" at her end of the field. She wasn't wrong and whilst she was provided with a bit of work in the next half, she was happy when LAUREN took over as goalie halfway through the 2nd half. These two goalies stopped every ball that MCC kicked towards the goal posts.

Great kicking and ball passing by MARIE, STEPH, LAURA, DANX, LARISSA & KELLY in the 2nd half provided the perfect set up for the next 5 goals scored by FRAN, LAUREN, ASHLEY and ELYSE, one of ELYSE's two goals being a pure "header". LAUREN took a shot from midfield and it landed straight in the net. Special mention to ASHLEY for being in the right place at the right time – the ball kicked by FRAN hit ASHLEY's body and ricocheted straight into the net.

Special mention must also be made of the most spectacular goal attempt. During an effort by MCC to kick the ball away from Thornleigh's goal post area, HAYLEY ran through the crowd, skidded between the bodies and shot the ball into the net – 1 second after the Ref's "offside" whistle. Other great goal attempts throughout the game were made by FRAN, MARIE, ASHLEY and ELYSE all set up by their team mates. STEPH came off the field during the 2nd half with a muscle injury and we hope that her injury heals for next week's game.

Great team work, great defence and overall, a great game !!

ALL AGE/4 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 1 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 1

A very close game was played by both teams. The thorns played an outstanding first half during which numerous shots at goal were had by AMY, LAURA, BRIONY and PREYA, our new striker, who manage to tuck one away about 12 minutes into the game. It was such a pit it was our only one! Our midfield had a defined presence, consistent challenges and pressure was felt from TAHLIA, CATHY, JESS, ASH, JACKIE and MADDIE. Being short on defenders today our backs, ANDY, LYDIA, BRIN and ADELAIDE did well to continuously retaliate at any attack. The girls seemed to tire in the second half, although the Ravens goal could only be a product of a penalty that was merely impossible to save. A thankyou is in order for the girls that willingly stepped in to help out in defence – MADDIE, CATHY and JESS. And an incredible performance from MEL in goals – as usual! An unfortunate ankle injury saw LYDIA taken off the field towards the end of the first half. Here's to a speedy recovery! A hard, fast paced game played by all, and a pleasurable but intense game to watch. Well done girls!!!



ALL AGE/7

THORNLEIGH 4 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

It was a very good day for the Thunder. With the return of several key players the boys were keen to make the most of this opportunity to get a win on the board, and that they did in emphatic style. The boys started strongly creating several early chances and near misses. There were worrying signs that we could be headed in the direction of the first game as we seemed to take the foot off the accelerator a little bit for a while. But all those thoughts went away after PAT CHAPMAN finally nailed the first goal after 37 minutes, netting on his second attempt after his first shot was blocked. So we took a small and slightly unrepresentative lead into the half and looked to capitalise in the second. It only took four minutes for that to happen. TIM MORISON marking his return with a goal. After a sublimely deft chip over the defence from ANDREW WAGG all he had to do was nod the ball home. We continued to press and Timi-Goal got a second just after the hour mark to seal the victory. RICHARD HULOWATYI put the cherry on top netting the Thunder's fourth after some brilliant build up play from DAVID POWER. The manager looking like a genius putting Richie on as striker (if I do say so myself). ANDREW LISCOE came tantalisingly close to adding a fifth which would have been just reward for an outstanding effort but the keeper conspired to keep it out, just. So it ended 4-0, it could have been more but everyone was happy with the result, the clean sheet and the 3 points on the board. On his return JAMES RODGER had a typically strong performance as did ANDREW BOUGHTON and GREG RUSTON in defence, not giving our opponents a look at goal all day. AARON BOOTH also played strongly in the midfield and MURRAY GRAVES also had a typical captain's knock, married life not having softened him...yet. So a good solid win sets us up well on the table now, everybody's happy. Things are looking good.

ALL AGE/10 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

We started the first half strong pushing forward and keeping to our half for most of the game. Our forwards and mids worked hard and had many attempts at goal. Ten minutes before the whistle was blown for the first half MADJ came from the right of the goalie to score. The second half West Pennant Hills pushed forward more but with our strong defence and great work from KATHY our goalie coming out and getting the ball early really paid off, as we kept the opposition scoreless. We were issued a penalty inside the box and HELEN stepped up to score just over the goalies head, the score ended with a 2 nil win. Many of our girls played really well today, KATE had a great game in defence, ALICIA our sweeper, JIN and KAREN both made hard tackles. This was a tough game, many girls ended up on the ground due to hard body contact and the surface of the grounds. Unfortunately KAREN ended up worse for wear and was carried off the field after a knee from a West Pennant Hills player hit her thigh. We should have ended up with more goals, as the attempts come from ANG, JIN, JOANNE, FELICITY, and BELINDA. Unfortunately next week we are up against Epping YMCA who won 7 nil against Normanhurst so we really need to put our hearts and body into next week's game.

ALL AGE/18

THORNLEIGH 7 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

This was a great win by the team as we bounced back from our first game defeat to crush West Penno. We had regrouped at training during the last two weeks and we were determined to start to play the football that we are capable of.

Our game plan was to start the game at full speed and to run the opposition off the park, controlling the ball and attacking down the flanks using substitutions in the mid field to keep fresh legs running at West Penno as they tired. This worked a treat and it became obvious that we were on our A game as we attacked the opposition as soon as the whistle blew. We were soon on the score board as NICK running onto a nice pass from MARC ran away from his marker and put it past the diving keeper. We were in control of the game by this stage and running at will at the opposition and we had our second score of the day as ROLY beat his man and slotted home a great goal.

Our third goal came from a penalty as MARC who had been denied by a deliberate hand ball stepped up to the spot and banged it home. Our fourth goal came from a huge throw in from CHRIS who found PAUL rising above his marker to head in a fine goal. Our defensive team of PETER in goal, LIAM, TOM, DHESAN, MATT and CHRIS were outstanding in keeping the opposition away from our goals and continually turning defence into counter attack. This created space for our mid field of TERRY, ROLY, NICK, DAVE, JORDAN, KENNY and ANDY to dominate West Penno and allowed our forwards PAUL and MARC to keep pressure on the opposition goal mouth.

We came in at half time four nil up and we regrouped for a second half that we knew would see West Penno fighting back. They came as a different team and we had to scramble to defend our goal but we weathered the storm and gradually started to gain the ascendancy and were soon on the score board again as a free kick from ROLY curled away from the keeper and just missed as it hit the woodwork only to bounce into the path of DAVE who slammed it home. Our sixth goal was from ROLY who weaved around his marker and banged it past the keeper, and our last goal came from NICK who was moved up front and used his speed to streak past his marker and slot in a really good goal.

Well done boys you really showed what we are capable of. We will need to continue to work hard on the training paddock to improve on the fine work that you displayed today.

OVER 35/2

THORNLEIGH 2 vs GLENHAVEN 1

Two wins from two games is a great start to the season. However we said the same thing this time last year after similar results and then managed just one point for the rest of the season.

After such a great start we are finding our mail bag overflowing with letters from the younger fans of our club who are seeking to emulate the success of their more seasoned idols and we thought it would be good to share some of these with you.

Little Billy from the Thornleigh Crabs asked us "how do you prepare for a game"? The secret is lots of fluids and carbohydrates. Fortunately beer has both of these.

Little Johnny from the Thornleigh Bunnies asks "how important is strategy in our games"? This is very important and that is why we spend a lot of time at Pennant Hills Bowling Club over many beers discussing tactics.

Little Timmy from the Thornleigh Pussies asks "how important is good team morale and how do you build yours"? We work very hard at this by ensuring that we bring a large esky full of beer to every game and staying afterwards until its contents has been emptied. This is one aspect of our game that we take very seriously.

I hope that this has given our many admiring younger players an insight into the professionalism behind their role models and the discipline required to play soccer at our standard. Next week we will attempt to respond to the huge number of letters that we have received from the women within our club asking such questions as "how do you maintain your youthful physiques", "are any of you still single" and "how do you remain humble despite your status as elite sportsmen"?

