



Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

SOCCKER DIVISION

Blue & Gold Newsletter

16-17 May 2009



Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 12pm

Email to: ThunderMatchReports@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Another great weekend of soccer weather which I'm sure was appreciated by all. It was good to see that the girl's/women's team are getting some home games at Oakleigh. I have also heard comment that there is a much more lively atmosphere at Oakleigh on Saturday mornings now that the mini teams are back playing.

Congratulations to the Premier League who managed a double win up in the wilds of Kenthurst. The new coaches have really hit the ground running and we appreciate their efforts and time.

We have heard from the Referees' Association concerning the treatment that is sometimes dished out to officials. I would like to think we have made some inroads into unacceptable behaviour but there is still a long way to go for some clubs. I was disappointed to see at an Under 17 game the opposition coach continually berate the referee. Everyone should know that refereeing is not an exact science and that mistakes will be made. Watchers of Rugby League games will know exactly that.

We have a good reputation with the Referees' Association and that has taken a number of years to build. Let's make sure our Club does not appear on the list of clubs deemed difficult to deal with at games.

Thanks again to all the volunteers that have pitched in to make this such an enjoyable season so far.

All the best for the next round.

Yours in Commitment

Rob Roberts

RESULTS

GHFA Competition – 16 May 2009

Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U9/3	Saints United	3	3
U9/7	Beecroft	0	2
U9/8	All Saints Hunters Hill	0	1
U10/3	Ryde District	3	0
U11/2	All Saints Hunters Hill	0	1
U11/6	Saints United	0	3
U12/3	Ryde District	1	2
U13/2	Pennant Hills	1	3
U14/4	North Epping Rangers	3	1
U15/4	Roselea	1	5
U17/1	Carlingford Redbacks	0	2
U17/3	Putney	5	1
AA/4	Eastwood St Andrews	6	2
AA/7	Saints United	1	1
AA/10			
AA/12	West Pennant Hills	0	1
AA/16	Carlingford Redbacks	0	1
AA/18	North Epping Rangers	1	0
AA/20	North Epping Rangers	3	0
O35/2	Gladesville Ravens	2	2
O35/5	Pacific Hills Dural	2	1
PL/Res	Kenthurst	1	0
PL/1 st	Kenthurst	2	1

NWSWS Competition – 17 May 2009

Grade/Div	Opposition	For	Against
U14/1	Mount St Benedict	3	0
U14/2	Mercy College	2	4
U15/2	West Ryde Rovers	4	1
U17/1	West Pennant Hills	1	1
U18/1	West Pennant Hills	2	0
AA/4	Normanhurst	4	0
AA/10	Ryde	0	1
O/35	Gladesville Ravens	0	10





THORNLEIGH THUNDER SOCCER CLUB

2009 TEAM PHOTOS

GHFA Team Photo Schedule Saturday 23 May, Oakleigh Oval

<i>Team</i>	<i>Arrival time</i>	<i>Photo time</i>
6 green	9.10	9.20
6 red	8.40	8.50
6 orange	10.20	10.30
6 white A	10.40	10.40
6 white B	8.50	9.00
6 white C	11.40	11.50
7 white A	11.20	11.30
7 white B	9.20	9.30
7 white C	11.30	11.40
7 red A	9.00	9.10
7 red B	8.10	8.20
7 green	8.30	8.40
8 blue	10.40	10.50
8 green	12.40	12.50
8 red	7.40	7.50
8 white	10.00	10.10
9/3	9.30	9.40
9/7	8.00	8.10
9/8	7.50	8.00
10/3	9.50	10.00
11/2	12.20	12.30
11/5	8.20	8.30
12/3	12.00	12.10
13/2	11.00	11.10
14/4	9.40	9.50
15/4	10.50	11.00
17/1	12.30	12.40
17/3	11.10	11.20

NWSW Team Photo Schedule Sunday 31 May, Oakleigh Oval

<i>Arrival time</i>	<i>Photo time</i>	<i>Team</i>
10.50	11.00	17/1 Girls
11.05	11.15	15/2 Girls
11.20	11.30	14/2(1) Girls
11.50	12.00	18/1 Girls
12.05	12.15	14/2(2) Girls

- **Note changes to the times for 8 Green and 8 Red over last week's schedule**
- **Any further changes will be communicated via Team Managers**
- **Team Managers: before your team's photo shoot, please assemble players in height order and make sure all shirts are tucked in and socks pulled up**
- **Please bring a soccer ball**
- **Managers and coaches to wear a Thunder jacket if possible**
- **Any questions, call John Sparkes on 0428 910 025.**

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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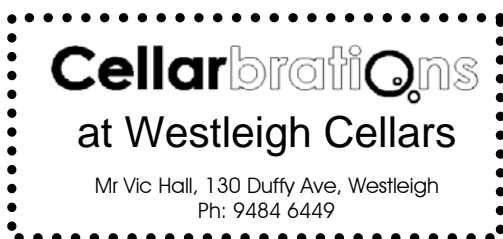
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UNDER 6 GREEN

THORNLEIGH vs REDFIELD LIONS

A sunny, but windy day for this week's game. After we organised the right teams on the right field we sent out ANDREW, NATHAN, LOGAN and ROHAN to start the game while MICHAEL, MITHCHELL and COOPER patiently waited their turn. We were up against a supremely confident Lions side that scored early and often. Our boys were not too concerned though as they focused on practicing their tackling, an area in which they showed great improvement this week. Player of the week this week was LOGAN who managed to concentrate better than the others this week and got very involved in the game.

UNDER 6 ORANGE

After a super start to our first game last week, the boys were again keen to take the field for their first away game. JOSH in his second game lapped up the experience and made two excellent kicks up the field. JAMES once again made some excellent clearances in defence and was rewarded just before half time with a superb goal struck from close range. BEN made another fierce contribution following the ball all over the field and making some good attacking runs and some fantastic blocks. JAAN put us in a good position with some beautiful kicks. JAMIE made some great crosses to his team mates and also saved a goal by confidently kicking the ball away from the goal. ETHAN played solidly again, breaking away to the goal, taking out opposition players with crosses and tackles. FLETCHER was attacking in his play, running and chasing enthusiastically at every opportunity. The second half saw some great encouragement from JOSH on the sidelines; great attacking runs from ETHAN; a massive kick off by FLETCHER and some big kicks from JAMIE. JAMES also made quite a few shots at goal but it was the combination of BEN, JAMES and a well struck ball from JAAN that found the back of the net with success. Considering the blustery autumn weather the boys controlled the ball well. Great game boys, keep up the good work.

UNDER 6 RED

THORNLEIGH 5 vs REDFIELD LIONS 2

This week's match was met with a very windy morning at Oakleigh Oval. Whilst the opposition spent most of their time arguing with each other, Thornleigh got proceedings under way and were on the attack from the start. Unlike the week before, AXIE TADZIK's timing and soccer skills seemed to click into gear and it wasn't long before he scored Thornleigh's first goal with a great push through a crowded pack which ended with the ball in the back of the opposition's net. It didn't take long for ANDREW HILL to then remind Redfield of the score. This was a reminder that would continue for most of the game. JACK BIDWELL is making a habit of scoring goals and again he didn't let us down. He made Redfield pay for not clearing the ball from their goalmouth by quickly pouncing on a loose ball and striking it back into their goal. Some great cover defence from JESSICA DARGAN thwarted any chance that Redfield might have of scoring goals and this helped Thornleigh go to the break two goals up. A fired-up Thornleigh side picked up the second half from where they had left off in

the first with ZACHARY DUNLOP being involved in everything. It didn't take long before his great work saw the ball land at JACK BIDWELL's feet again who slotted Thornleigh's third. Tears and arguments continued within the Redfield players but a couple of lucky breaks resulted in them scoring two quick goals which put them right back in the game. ALISTAIR WESTON was going to have none of this so with his hands out of his pants he led the charge back up-field. A resulting kick-in taken by AXIE TADZIK bamboozled all players and kept rolling right into Redfield's goal for Thornleigh's fourth. By now the game was all but won but try telling that to HARRISON HOWARD. He just keeps on keepin' on. His consistent efforts led to one last assault on the opposition's goal. A young Redfield lad finished the move off by looking up, seeing a goal in front of him and kicking that ball straight into it...it was his own goal...but the smile on his face made not only himself happy but us happy too. This week's Best and Fairest award was presented to ZACHARY DUNLOP. Well done ZACHARY!

U6 WHITE A

THORNLEIGH A 13 vs GLENHAVEN 0

Unperturbed by their first "away" game - infused with a cold billowy wind - the thunders were ready for action. JASMINE set the mood, performing a quick war dance that took great advantage of the winds ability to swirl her hair.

Kick-off saw JACK wallop the ball down the line, but immediately Glenhaven counter-attacked and were flying down the wing toward our goal posts - close miss thanks to JAMES'S lightning defence. Then JACK made a sprint for the goal, passed it to JAMES - Kick - off the post - Kick - off the post - GOAL!!! The mood was set and the Thunders pounced.

HUGH powered through the defenders, took aim - GOAL! A breath later and JAMES absolutely carved through Glenhaven, "riding" the ball home - GOAL! The resumption of play saw JACK blur off the half-way line and fire off a shot from an incredible distance - SCORES!

Glenhaven mount a heated comeback, but LIAM and EUAN answer by serving up some impressive blocks, while JASMINE "buzzes" into the mayhem distracting the opposition with great precision.

Half time score -Thunders 4 and Glenhaven 0. The air is electric!

From out of nowhere LIAM makes his move - fires - misses by the width of a hair! Suddenly HUGH was pressed up against the goal post - side-kicked - GOAL! JAMES literally turned into a weapon of mass destruction with a sole directive - score goals. Opportunity knocked when HUGH set up a ball for EUAN - WHAM in it goes!

The Thunders were like a well a well oiled machine to the dying moments of the game, scoring just before full time (someone must be training them!). The smiles on their faces said it all - Thunders 13 and Glenhaven 0.



U6 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH 'B' v KENTHURST 'A'

The team entered this match with trepidation following the robust encounter with a strong Kenthurst 'C' outfit last week. However, the fine morning – clear and mild – bode well. The team started brightly and dominated possession, showing the good work coach MATT RICHMOND has put in during the mid-week training sessions. Young NOAL TIKROFT was involved in the game from the kick-off, enthusiastically running after the ball. His pressure allowed ROBBIE FERGUSON to nick the ball from the opposition and run it down the right touchline. His long-range shot almost put the home team ahead as the ball kissed the far-side post. TOM RICHMOND made a magnificent stop to keep the visitors goal-less as once again he demonstrated his first-class defensive tackles. At the first change JAYARTH 'man of steel' GUNAWARDENA came on exemplifying the spirit in which the U6 game is played, laughing all the time as he chased the ball. His enthusiasm was rewarded when the field opened up in front of him and he ran the ball true to the back of the net. OLIVER JENNINGS soon added another. After making a lovely defensive tackle to take the ball from the opposition he headed off down the nearside touch line before moving in-field to take his shot. OSCAR BIASON was keen to join in the action and as soon as the ball fell to him took off towards the goal. His turn of speed was no match for the Kenthurst defences and he ran straight through for a well taken goal. Further goals from OLIVER JENNINGS and JAYARH GUNAWARDENA kept the scoreboard ticking along nicely. CONNOR DOWNEY showed his classy soccer skills throughout the match. He should have had a goal as he broke away from the chasing pack towards the end of the match only to be denied as he was bundled off the ball as he lined up his shot. All the supporters wished Kenthurst 'A' a consolation goal but the THORNLEIGH 'B' defence was too good. The final whistle blew and the game finished with lots of smiles on faces. Well done to all.

UNDER 6 WHITE C

THORNLEIGH C vs WEST PENNANT HILLS A

LUC FENTON was seen skillfully executing the skill practised at training this week - the 'stop and turn'. This, combined with his rendition of the song Juicy, Juicy Orange for half time entertainment, made it a game not to miss! ANNALISE KAIN continued her fine form, blazing down the field to score an early goal. ADELE WILLIAMS did a great kick-in to a member of our team as well as such vigorous attacking she hit the dirt 3 times! What a brave player. FLYNN TAYLOR played valiantly, with some superb dribbling and laces kicks. As well as some great kicking, AJAY YUVARAJ performed the first 'header' for the season right from the sideline! SEAN McALLISTER did some lovely flick kicking and passing, keeping the team buoyant with his upbeat demeanour. MITCHELL BLACK and NICHOLAS WEICKART did some great running and kicking and both scored a goal in the second half. The teamwork displayed during the match should make our coaches very proud.

UNDER 7 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 3 vs GLENHAVEN 2

This was a fantastic game even with the strong winds. CALLUM and THOMAS were excellent in scoring the three goals. LACHLAN, BEN and JACOB were outstanding in passing to each other, and JACOB just missed out on scoring a goal! The defence was impressive with EDWARD and MASON saving goals with some huge kicks. Well done, boys! Player of the match went to EDWARD who displayed awesome skills and fancy footwork throughout the game.

UNDER 7 RED B

THORNLEIGH B vs NORMANHURST

The sun was shining, the wind was wild, the boys were eager to play hard. The game started with a few injuries, MICHAEL was already sick in bed, CHRISTOPHER hurt his hand in the first few minutes, MAX got a ball to the head, they were one down on the field, so Normanhurst took one off too. But the boys played really well with only 4 on the field going for the ball, until the boys recovered. MYLES was everywhere blocking the Normanhurst attack and stopping numerous goals, and made some huge kicks towards goal. THOMAS was also on the ball today, showing an excellent kicking style and some great determination when he came up against his cousin from Normanhurst with awesome success (see photo, cousin is the Normanhurst player on the ground). The rest of the team were also trying their best. CHARBEL was charging their defence, MAX and WILL were helping to block the ball, with some great kicks and CHRISTOPHER was showing off some great control on the ball too. I think the boys may have been praying at half time for some intervention from above, but I don't think it included a branch falling on the other team, hitting a dad and a player, luckily they seemed OK, we hoped they recovered from the shock.

Player of the Week: MYLES CAVANOUGH



UNDER 7 WHITE A

THORNLEIGH A vs THORNLEIGH B

What a great game of soccer against an evenly matched opposition. Both sides were filled with enthusiastic budding stars with each team having a key player. TRAVIS HILTON fought tirelessly all game to set up his team mates with scoring opportunities before scoring his own goal in the 2nd half and seemed to enjoy playing against one of his friends. TRAVIS was also instrumental in shutting down breaks made by the opposition. ISABELLE NATOLI was rewarded for some great individual breaks opening our account in the 1st half with a goal. KURT TIKOFT was heavily involved in the game reading the attack of the opposition very well and making several key defensive interceptions. KURT was so enthusiastic to take advantage of a scoring opportunity in the 1st half, he momentarily forgot he had feet. LUKE WILLIAMS had a great all round game narrowly missing a goal attempt in the 2nd half. It appears that the influence of COACH DIBLASIO is starting to show. During the game we saw rollovers and heel stops as well as some 1 – 2 passing between LAURA DIBLASIO and JASMINE WILLIAMS.

It is apparent after that only after 2 games this year, the team has realised the importance of passing with kick-offs being passed across field for waiting players and kick-ins being kicked to unmarked players.

UNDER 7 WHITE B

THORNLEIGH B vs THORNLEIGH A

Our second home game for the season against a Thornleigh team, starting with a goal from the opposition that woke the "Green Team" up. A huge run down the field from LUCAS followed by a quick tackle to get the ball back, but no goal this time. A good run up the field by LIAM out of the corner. The teams moved the ball up and down the field in a ruck that just kept on going. Until a break by the opposition stopped by a great save by RILEY in front of goal. Good passing and team play by JACQUILINE RILEY scores just before half time. The second half saw much the same determination from both sides, who were very evenly matched. LUCAS has a shot at goal, soon followed by RILEY with another goal. Great clearing kicks from the sideline by LIAM and MATTHEW. LUCAS kicks a huge shot at goal from the half way line, but hits the goal post. More stunning defence by MIKA, keeping his mind on the job and eye on the ball. A corner from LUCAS to MATTHEW who shoots and scores. The boys have to defend in our corner for about 5 mins before the ball can be cleared away from goal, with a good save by LIAM, who follows up with a shot at goal. A close game that shows the strengths of both teams. Player of the week to MATTHEW for his attention in following coach's instructions and accurate kicking. Merit award to JACQUILINE for great team play and thinking about where to pass the ball.



UNDER 8 BLUE

THORNLEIGH 0 vs WEST RYDE 3

The wind was howling at Meadowbank giving a clear advantage to the team with the wind at their backs. Our boys bravely ran face first into the onslaught.

JAKE DARGAN started in goals and was kept busy throughout the half. The boys were very good in scrambling defence and managed to keep a clean slate in the first half. The uneven field and interesting interpretation of the rules kept the boys on their toes. We had a few good runs but never really put the opposition under pressure. JAMES RICKWOOD took the full brunt of the ball in the stomach and went crashing to the ground.

The second half saw JIMMY SHRUBB in the big green shirt protecting our goal. The boys played strongly, but another 2 went down to big hits from the ball. NICK and BEN COLLEY had a few good raids supported by AIDAN & WILLIAM who attacked down the centre. DAN and DOM formed the core of our defence stopping numerous raids. The boys lacked the enthusiasm of last week with Neil the ref for the second half covering more ground chasing the play. Unfortunately our boys failed to capitalize on the advantage the wind provided. Better luck next week.

UNDER 8 GREEN

THORNLEIGH 0 vs. ROSELEA b 11

From the first blow of the whistle it was obvious this was going to be a tough one with the opposition taking control of the ball immediately and going straight into attack. Lucky for U8 Green, we had IRIS YUAN as the goalie who tirelessly defended against the opposition onslaught. This being said, in the first half there was fantastic work by the centres and backs led by OLIVIA FLACK in spoiling the opposition's opportunities. Nearing the end of the first half some smart moves by the rest of the team, saw JAYDEN TAOUK, CASANDRA HILL and ADELAIDE GIFFNEY kicking at the opposition net and missing by a whisker each time. Second half started similar to the first, this time with OLIVIA FLACK taking the heat as goalie and doing a magnificent job under pressure. VERONICA JOHNS and JAMIE PAYNE assisted as much as possible in spoiling the opposition attempts at goal. With the end of the game near, JAYDEN TAOUK, VERONICA JOHNS and CASANDRA HILL found the extra energy and were relentless at trying to put a number on the scorecard, however in this tough match it was not to be. The team took the loss well shaking hands with the Roselea team, with U8 Greens fans unanimously supportive of their effort and looking forward to the next game. Player of the week went to IRIS YUAN, with a mention to all players of how great their effort was.

UNDER 8 RED

THORNLEIGH 0 vs. WEST PENN. HILLS CHERRY. A 5

It was a cold and windy day and we were up against a very strong team. We had a slow start but soon warmed up to start the attack before the end of the first half. In the first half we had a good defensive kick from BLAKE RYAN and THEA SCHMERTMANN. Good attacking from EMMA SANCATALDO and RUBEN MOUTON to take the ball down to the other end with a good goal attempt by RUBEN MOUTON. MATTHEW PINES and CONNOR CLARKE showed great skills in passing the ball and taking it up centre field. LUKE BIRRELL was goalie and worked hard to produce some great saves. In the second half, DYLAN WELGEMOED showed strong defence skills, chasing after the ball and displaying great passing skills. MATTHEW PINES performed a great pull back move and CONNOR CLARKE trapped the ball in the air and chased after it. EMMA CARRIGAN trapped the ball, turned and started to take it down field. BLAKE RYAN was strong on the defence and often raced down the field to tackle players. THEA SCHMERTMANN in goalie produced some good saves. EMMA SANCATALDO drove the ball to goal. RUBEN MOUTON may have struggled with a chest cold, but it certainly did not stop him from trying to score goals. Again, an excellent game with great team work and noticeable tackling, passing and ball control skills. Well done, a great game enjoyed by all!!

UNDER 8 WHITE

THORNLEIGH 9 vs ST ANDREWS 0

In the third game of the season, the players really played well and could do very well this season should they continue to play like they have over the past 3 weeks. This week saw the return to form of MORGAN HUGHES who put 4 goals into the back of the net - he had a great game so let's hope he can do the same next week. All the players did well in attack but our defence was again strong with the likes of JORDAN-LEE BACON and JARRET WILSON making some great defensive tackles as well as some good runs. TARA WILSON had a quiet game by her standards, but still played well and had a few good runs. JONATHAN CHAN again played a great game and unlucky not to score, but he's a good player and is going to score a lot of goals this season. ISAAC LANE showed his skills with scoring 2 goals, as did BRADLEY HOWARD who picked up 2 and goal of the game, with a deft header down to his feet, then dribbling before taking a shot at goal... awesome stuff. OLIVER DEWEY also got into the scoring mode and picked up 1 goal. DANIEL PATTERSON had some great games and came close to scoring on a number of occasions but just couldn't find the back of the net.

All that being said, the players are starting to play as a team and without that team effort no one would be able to score goals, let's keep it up.

On another note, I forgot to mention one of our most important parents in last's week's game against the players. Our BRIAN 'PHOTOSHOOT' HOWARD was left out of the report, so I've decided to put him into this week's report and have the limelight all by himself as he deserves it for all his effort in taking photos of the players and creating the end of season football DVD. Thanks BRIAN we really appreciate it.

UNDER 9/3

THORNLEIGH 3 vs RYDE SAINTS UNITED 3

The day dawned cold and windy but the team was not deterred. Thornleigh dominated possession in the first half. JOSHUA WATKINS scored twice in fairly quick succession. ROWAN WOOD was all over the field making good use of the ball with his light feet. JOSEPH MATTA scored our third goal in the first half with the ball being passed down the field through the team to bring the score to three nil. The end of the first half saw a Ryde Saints United rally and our goalkeeper CODY LEWIS was put under sustained pressure. The opposition eventually scored to bring the result to three to one. The beginning of the second half was again dominated by Thornleigh with successive attempts at goal. CODY LEWIS was our second half goalkeeper and displayed considerable cool when Ryde Saints United started to apply the pressure again. The opposition scored twice in this half to bring the final score to three all. Congratulations to JOSEPH MATTA for Goal of the Week, DYLAN DONOVAN for the Teamwork Reward and ROWAN WOOD Player of the Week.

UNDER 9/7

THORNLEIGH 0 vs BEECROFT 2

This week U9/7's ran a tight game against the competition leaders Beecroft going down 2-0 in a wind affected game. The Man of the Match this week was NICK WENSLEY, who playing in the Mid Field managed to steal and control the ball as much as possible minimising ball possession for Beecroft. Our Forwards, NICK HO, ROBBIE BRADLEY, BRAIDEN WOLHOFF and RAYMOND FERRIS found it hard to keep possession due to a strong Beecroft Backline, Raymond found himself time and time again engaged in battling the ball away from the Beecroft Defensive Line. DANIEL MALLETT, TRISTAN DOWNEY and NICK WENSLEY all played a strong game in the Mid Field in a game that tested their fitness as the ball constantly moving up and down the field with no one team dominating possession for any length of time. DANIEL DRAPER and ZACH MCLEOD, faced with difficult winds and fast goal area did well to keep the score at 2-0, especially when one of the goals was a freak ricochet. LOUISA LAWRENCE, BRENDAN MUDULIAR, CHRIS BLOOM and DANIEL MERRICK put up a sensational fight in the backline against some extremely fast Beecroft forwards. We all Would like to wish Louisa a fabulous Holiday and her contributions over the next 4 weeks will be missed... Have a great Holiday Louisa.



UNDER 11 / 2

THORNLEIGH 0 vs ALL SAINTS 1

It was a mild, if blustery early start at Monash Park for a 'home' game. The team seemed undaunted facing the league leaders who had not lost a match so far. BYRON in goal in the first half was kept busy along with the rest of the defence especially NICK and ALEX, but the match was also interspersed with some end to end play in the first half. However, with most of the team defending, when Thornleigh managed to make a break it was difficult to get the support for a 'second wave' of attack and ANTHONY, LUKE and MATT did well to get the ball up to the opposition's goal but rarely threatened their keeper. AIDAN, and BEN played well in the mid-field and continued to stifle the opposition's attacks in-between.

The second half continued with more of the same but there was noticeably more of the play in our defensive half in this second half. It looked as if we were going to have to settle for a 0-0 draw, managing to keep the ball out of our net with several shots on target saved by JORDAN goalkeeping for Thornleigh in the second half. Against the run of play, a loose ball fell for BEN 'Ginger' HURWOOD with a superb shot at goal that looked as if it had everyone beaten until the wind held the ball down enough for their keeper to get to it.

With some continued pressure from Monash Park, a scramble in the six yard box in the last 20 seconds of the match resulted in a goal by the opposition. The final whistle blew without an opportunity to restart.

Man of the match this week was awarded to NICK for his excellent defensive work rate.

UNDER 12/3

THORNLEIGH 1 vs RYDE PANTHERS 2

The mighty Thunder were unfortunate not to get a point out of this game, in a much improved performance on last week. A slow start to the game, playing into a howling wind, came back to haunt us. After 15 minutes, we were 2-0 down against a motivated Ryde team looking for its first win of the season. Once our guys woke up after about 15 minutes, however, it was a very different story, and we were somewhat unlucky not to pull one goal back before half time, with SAM DRUMM in particular coming close to scoring a couple of times. As the first half wore on, the defensive line of BEN SEPAROVICH, MAX KENNEDY, NATALIE BARKER, ANDREW HADDAD and TAMYKA WILLIAMS were doing better to stifle the Ryde attack, and NATHAN BIRRELL was looking safe in goals. In midfield, RYAN MALLETT, EAMON MOSES, MARK RICHARDS, CALLUM TOOHEY and JASON CLARKE were also beginning to compete more for the ball and putting a few passes together, meaning more forays forward by our attacking players SLADE BLANCH, BEN JONES and BEN MANCE. At half time we were still 0-2 down, but had turned the corner and would have the wind behind us in the second half. Could we get the two goals we needed? Strong pressure and increased urgency saw us start the second half on the attack, but the goal would not come. Finally, after about 15 minutes of the second half and after a wave of attacks, BEN JONES used his height and, like, totally awesome skills to flick the ball over the keeper. While Ryde continued to look dangerous on the break as we pressed forward, we were looking the side far more likely to score. Even with 30 seconds to go we were in the Ryde penalty box looking for the equaliser, but a second goal would not come. But, as ever, our team showed good spirit and good sportsmanship and never gave up. *Special thanks to David Richards for warming the kids up as the coach/manager arrived late, having left home without the team bag (and his brain), and for assisting with substitutions on the day.

UNDER 13/2

THORNLEIGH 3 vs PENNANT HILLS 1

The wind played havoc - for the first 15 mins the ball seemed to be floating like Toto in Kansas and every player appeared to be using their head much more than their feet. By the time the ball came back down to earth Pennant Hills pounced and used some of their great passing skills to score their first of three. ANDRE got an extra card today for his birthday after a tussle with an opponent, unfortunately there wasn't much writing on it and it was all yellow. We believe our first in the competition to date. ANDRE and TOM L orchestrated and BLAKE finalised our one and only goal, it was lucky for us the ref's guide dog was not around as it appeared to all and sundry there should have been another card presented today.

Obviously Coach Bob's words of wisdom at half time inspired them enough to keep Pennant Hills scoreless in the second half.

TOM L was called upon and produced his trademark corners however to no avail. MITCHELL threw his body on the line so much so that he needed some magic ice to get back on the field to show us his gutsy never-say-die attitude. MAX, JULIAN, THOMAS, JOSH and CAMPBELL were tireless in defence and the score line could have been much higher without their determination and Jay's skill in goals. As always our midfield HOLLY, CAMERON, TOM L, ADRIAN, MITCHELL, and IZAACK, kept running like the thoroughbreds they are all over the paddock never giving up. Everyone put in a big effort today however it was not meant to be our day for victory. Pennant Hills were all over us like LA smog, their passing of the ball was formidable and at the end of the day that is what beat us.

UNDER 14/4

THORNLEIGH 3 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 1

Today saw the backs step up to the mark and, although the opposition scored the first goal, they didn't have as many opportunities as Thornleigh had. We saw a brick wall in ALASDAIR BELLING who blocked the ball time and time again and ensured his big boot moved us quickly from the defensive to the offensive. There was absolute determination in DALE EDWARDS who didn't stop until the ball was either kicked out or he got the ball moving forward again. The big boot of DANIEL CHRISTIE also saw the defensive move to the offensive several times in the match. Once again JOSHUA COOPER shone in the goals with some great saves. He was never afraid to come out to the ball when the opportunity arose. Our first goal was scored off a fantastic corner kick by JACK ANGEL with the ball deflecting off the opposition's goal keeper into the goals. The first half ended with one goal each. Once again, just as in the game against Roselea, Thornleigh had many opportunities in front of the goals, but struggled to convert those opportunities to add to the score. This is not to say the forwards didn't do a brilliant job. We saw some brilliant runs by JACOB KOWALSKI and JACK ANGEL giving the usual 110%, working well with the support from the midfielders - fast and furious JIN LIM, the quiet and confident SAMUEL LANE, the determined THOMAS HIGGINS and the consistent MATTHEW FORD. The second goal, well into the second half was scored from a penalty kick by JACK ANGEL. It was a fantastic kick from quite a distance from the goals where the ball looped up in the air over the defence heads and into the goals. The third goal came off a throw-in within the opposition's half. From there the forward play was initiated by THOMAS HIGGINS to JACK ANGEL. There was a lot of scuffling around when suddenly OLIVER JUDSON positioned himself in the

right place at the right time in an open patch, giving the ball just the right edge to pop it into the goals. Although by no means their best game, it was never the less another exciting game to watch. Congratulations to JACK ANGEL who deservedly won man of the match (2nd time in a row).

UNDER 15/2 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 4 vs WEST RYDE ROVERS 1

A solid win for the girls and a much needed goal average boost. THORNLEIGH started strong and had the run of the park in the first half. SAMATHA TREES had a run from half way and shot a tidy goal within the first minute of the game. This was followed by GEORGIA DAVIS making a quarter-field run up the left and a shot virtually from the back line to make it 2 nil. The next 20 minutes settled down with some good football with passing and trapping, through balls and strong team play. However the climax came either side of the half way mark, where two more goals were scored with SAMANTHA TREES scoring a penalty and EMILIE LOWE scoring after a great run through the field. The girls seemed to lose their intensity in the following 20 minutes allowing WRR to regroup and become more competitive. The ball went from one end to the other placing a lot more pressure on the defence. WRR eventually broke through our back line to score a run away goal. Not to be deterred the girls kept the pressure up and had at least 5 more near misses or on-target shots only to be saved by a very competent keeper. The nice thing about this game is that all the girls shone. SHELBY COLLEY (today's captain) had a blinder of a game. ALYCE TOMPKINS had a bruising battle keeping their best & most agro player under control. Hope you don't bruise too much ALYCE. JESS HARRIS & LIVIE McKEOWN kept the midfield locked down with some great challenges. At right back LISA PHILIPS'S game is just getting better and better with great challenges and some player turning – well done. The Players' Player was awarded to Samantha Trees

PLAYER PROFILE

Player: Shelby Colley

Position: Fullback

Years Played: playing her 2nd year

Favourite Food: McDonalds

School: Year 10 at Penno

Pets: Missy the cat and Chip the dog



UNDER 15/4

THORNLEIGH 1 vs ROSELEA 5

This one will be short and sweet (to compensate for last week's essay) It was our goalie's turn this week for a busy day – and surely CHARLIE GILLINGS slept very well on Saturday night! MATE – YOU HAD A CRACKER! Very sharp reflexes and daring angle



breakdowns had many of the spectators with their hearts in their throats this week and the pat on the shoulder by the opposition coach at the end of the game (Yes – I saw that) really does say it all. Just a quick recap though – we witnessed stunning high touches pushing the ball over the top bar. We saw your arms grow 2 feet before our very eyes as they reached to claim a ball bouncing in the box. We saw hand-breaking punch-outs. Sweetest of all though had to be the stunning one-on-one saves – one from a shot, one from a rebound – that came from a glaringly offside run. Natural justice at it's best! And I can't leave out the fact that CHARLIE did all this WITHOUT GLOVES!

A big thank you once again to JACOB KOWALSKI for filling in for us – and what a sterling job he did in the forward line too, with his speed and daring up the line opening up some chances. Our other speedster, TIM LOVE also sniffed some goals, but couldn't target the back of the net this week. NATHAN QIN did though – from half way no less. His long high ball had more curves in it than Marilyn Monroe! NATHAN, you bamboozled the Roselea goalkeeper with that one, surprising yourself along the way no doubt. WHAT A CORKER! Your new name is Nathan David Beckham Qin!

Other highlights – JEREMY TOOHEY'S killer stops. (Nice air swings too mate) MICHAEL GAMBLE'S kicks (again!), ALEX CHARARA'S headers, MICAEL BRADLEY'S chasing runs, WILL SOWDEN'S focused ball control, and XAVIER BOUCHER, doing his best out of goals carrying a bandaged arm injury.

Nevertheless, Roselea had it over us today. Word at half time was this – Great movement by the backs and forwards, with special mention going to the efforts of HUW FISHER and RHYS BRIOT. Midfielders needed to be faster onto the ball, back in defense and up into attack. Brimming with encouragement just before the half time whistle, Coach Craig gave the message – "Halves, you are non-responsive. Drop back!" (Nice euphemism Craig!) Never mind boys – no doubt you'll be working on that at training on Wednesday night. ☺

So it wasn't to be this week. Nevertheless, the team cheer for the opposition, spectators, ref and Thornleigh players – this week led by CHARLIE GILLINGS, showed once again that the spirit of the game is never forgotten by this team – and that's what is great about these boys.

UNDER 17/1 GIRLS

THORNLEIGH 1 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 1

For a team coming last in the competition with a 3-29 goal deficit coming in to this match, West Penno played exceptionally well today. We were all expecting a goal fest for the Thunders but the "on-paper" form was not duplicated on the field. Our girls were down to 11 players with illness and other commitments, but all played the full 80 minutes with only one injury being MADDY BROWN coming off for 10 minutes in the second half with a calf muscle strain but recovering to re-take the field.

All the Thunders played well, but West Penno having been pummelled in most matches to date have got their defence worked out – put the whole team in the box to make an almost impenetrable shield across the goals. We must have had at least twenty opportunities only to be thwarted by the WPH brick wall. In contrast WPH only had a few possible chances and only two realistic ones - one getting through mid-way in the first half from what appeared to be off-side play which our girls appealed for and hesitated which opened up our goal for the taking. Play to the whistle!!!

In attack, the Thunders just couldn't finish off the lead-up play from our midfield of VANESSA KRASTEY (who made some good passes), STEPH THOMSON, CLAIRE BUSHROD and EVE WILCOX. That is no sleight on our brilliant-as-usual strikers of LUCY JONES and ANNALESE SMITH, just credit to the WPH wall. At the end of the match the ref said he couldn't believe we didn't score more goals and one could only agree with that remark. At the other end of Campbell Park FIONA SPARKES's "KEEPER!" calls could be heard by the whole suburb, as they should. A good example for calling our on-field passes, girls....

All credit to our defensive line of MADDY BROWN, JO LATHAM, COURTNEY BLANCH and ARI O'NEILL as sweeper, who snuffed out any semblance of attack in the second half, but the girls were becoming frustrated (not to mention their supporters) at their inability to convert all those scoring opportunities. With five minutes to go it was looking like an unexpected defeat for Thunder, then in the dying seconds LUCY JONES got a clear shot and thankfully found the net, with the full time whistle sounding immediately following the ensuing kick-off. The Girl Thunders came off with big smiles at salvaging a potentially disastrous situation. The team remains clinging to fourth spot on the table (on goal difference) and there is no doubt we will all treat WPH with far more respect when we meet them in the second round.

UNDER 17/1

THORNLEIGH 0 vs CARLINGFORD REDBACKS 2

Our second tough game in a row, it is Division 1. Although our strikers had many chances, the team could not match the Redbacks' score line. The pace of the game impressed spectators and there was some great passing up middle and both sidelines from MATT LOWE, JAMIE LUNDBERG, JORDAN SANT and LACHLAN BEENIE.

The back line was again steered by the great work ethic of JONATHAN MAUDE, with great rundowns by DARRYL KELSHAW. Again JOHN CAVILL was courageous and athletic in keeping goal. A few guys were off injured this week, so next week we need to lift and display our best skills and effort on the field to keep in final four contention. Good luck.

UNDER 17/3

THORNLEIGH 5 vs PUTNEY 1

The boys dominated the game. Plenty of opportunities created by crossings. All up there were 21 missed goals. Strong defence line quickly shut down any stray balls making it into our half. MATT, DION, MICHAEL, and AARON all did great kicks to set the ball up for our forwards. WILL did some great forwarding and saved a goal against us right on the goal line. Good sweeping actions by BRENDAN. HARRY (2) proved he could score with his left as well as fly in the air. ALEX did some strong plays and kept the pressure on. Some very fast foot work from KEL (2) and LEROY. JACKSON (1) made an amazing cross. LUKE made a fabulous 1-hand save.

UNDER 18/1 LADIES

THORNLEIGH 2 vs WEST PENNANT HILLS 0

A perfect autumn morning, and jaffa-coated strawberries welcomed the girls and their parents to Oakleigh Oval. As the team continues their search for additional players, we were fortunate to have the support of two U/17 girls, Maddie and Fiona.

Thornleigh attacked strongly for the first 10 minutes, resulting in an excellent goal from HAYLEY. Strong attack from ALYCE and FRAN, with support from KELLY led to a number of goal attempts. STEPH and MARIE turned defence into attack providing further opportunities, and with support from LAUREN and ALYCE, a second goal was scored by FRAN midway in the first half. DANIKA protected the wing keeping the ball in play, and in the opposition half, to maintain pressure. LAURA supported well in midfield, disrupting the opposition and passing the ball cleanly to the forwards.

When possession changed, CLAIRE absorbed the pressure well, and at other times during the match directed Thunder effectively to ensure good position on the field.

MADDIE and FIONA stepped up to the plate, providing clearing, controlled kicks to the forwards, with ALYCE providing continual support in midfield. Strong defence and controlled kicking continued to apply pressure to the opposition, allowing Thornleigh Thunder to maintain consistent attack.

West Pennant Hills were highly motivated following half time, and took many opportunities, with CLAIRE having to stand her ground to defend the goals under pressure. ASHLEY provided good ball and kicked strongly, however, despite a number of goal attempts, the opposition defence was too strong. MADDIE gave a perfect cross kick providing another opportunity to the forwards, as the full time whistle blew, with no goals being scored in the second half to either team.



ALL AGE/4 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 4 vs NORMANHURST 0

Players: AMY, BRIONY, PREYA, CATHY, ASH, JACKIE, MEL, ANDY, RHIAN, NERIDA, ADELAIDE, NAV, TAHLIA, LAURA & MISH.

Wow, what a great win for our girls against our rivals Normanhurst. A much anticipated game and we, the spectators were certainly not let down in this action packed game. Our girls probably played their best so far this season and almost could have easily scored a few more goals. Thanks again to MEL for her constant effort in goals and to MISH for giving MEL an opportunity for a run on the field. In the first 5 minutes our first goal was from a combination which was finally finished off by PREYA. A great start to our game that instantly put off our opposition and showed we were on top of the game. Almost immediately BRIONY followed with another goal for the Thorns. By the end of the first half PREYA scored yet again. Our last goal for the day coming from a penalty, was shot in with great style by LAURA bringing our total goal score to 4. Great effort and teamwork by all the girls, keep up the good work and a really enjoyable game to watch from the sideline.

ALL AGE/7

THORNLEIGH 1 vs RYDE SAINTS UNITED 1

While not being the result we needed I suppose 1 point is not a complete disaster. A win would have moved us out of the mid-table wad of teams but a draw will see us still mired in there somewhere. But as long as we're in touch with the top four everything's still on track. I would describe the team's performance this week as a little bit "Keira Knightley" in that while we played some attractive football we were still a little flat. We started reasonably well for a Sunday morning and took the lead after 12 minutes with AARON BOOTH tapping home after PAT CHAPMAN'S initial shot was blocked. Aaron thus proving the importance of following in shots. A few more good early chances followed, MURRAY GRAVES spraying wide in front of an open goal was one that got away, but we were unable to build on our lead. Luck was on our side defensively however as JAMES RODGER miss-timed a tackle in the box which fortunately the referee thought was a dive from the tacklee. I swear I don't know how that \$50 got in the ref's pocket. So we had a slender lead at the break and came out determined to increase it. And that we did only for the goal to be disallowed for offside. Finally the linesman had made a call, albeit, much to our chagrin. While still comprehending the decision our opponents quickly got us on the counter and equalised. This rocked the ship a little but we quickly resolved to try and get a winner. RICHARD HULOWATYI hitting one off the post came closest. While the enthusiasm was there in words it never quite came through in our actions. Our opponents seemed happy with the draw yet we seemingly allowed them to dictate the pace. We know we wanted it more but we could never quite make it happen. A dogged performance from TIM MORISON was a highlight as was the effort from BRAD RUSTON. So it ended a somewhat disappointing draw. Not a complete disaster but if we want to improve our position in the comp we need to be less like Keira Knightley and a little more like Jenna Jameson. Not flat and always looking to score.

ALL AGE/10 WOMEN

THORNLEIGH 0 vs RYDE PANTHERS 1

The game started with Ryde Panthers being a player down, they came hard and strong and playing in our half. We defended so well, KATHY our goalie just kept the balls out, diving on the ball, coming out of her box and didn't make a wrong move (she had the best game of the season so far). We pulled together and then in the second half of the first half we really come together and had chances of scoring. MADI kept running through Ryde Panthers defence but unfortunately didn't capitalise. ANNA too from defence hit the ball so hard and missed the goal just to the right. We had opportunities up front but we were not able to hit the net. ANG in our mid field worked tirelessly in defence and attack. In defence LISA, and FRANCES worked tirelessly throughout the game without a rest, they in turn with KATHY saved at least 10 goals but then 10 minutes before the end of the game a high ball hit the high corner of the net. This game was evenly matched but unfortunately we didn't score. Let's see what we can do next week. Good job girls.

ALL AGE/18

THORNLEIGH 1 vs NORTH EPPING RANGERS 0

This was a pleasing result considering the atrocious conditions that we encountered on Saturday afternoon, playing at Carlingford we ran into a force 10 gale for the first half and this combined with a substandard pitch made the game a poor spectacle as each side struggled to control the ball. Our passing game was patchy at best as the wind and the ground negated any movement that we attempted and Rangers kept turning us around with long balls that flew in the wind back to our goal mouth. Just keeping the ball in play was a challenge as the wind pushed the ball toward the sidelines at very opportunity.

We had the better of the first half even though we ran into the wind and we had several shots that just shaved the posts and we finally got onto the score board as MARC ran wide and passed to ROLY who belted a great shot which cannoned off a Rangers player past a diving keeper and we came in at half time at one nil all up and a little tired as we played the half without any substitutions. (NICK turned up just before half time). After a good rest and talk we went out with the wind at our backs committed to controlling the game from the out set. We immediately started to play the ball wide and push the ball into the box from the flanks but the wind again caused havoc as any high balls into the box were pushed safely over the bar and balls along the ground were picked up by the Rangers' defence who were clearly playing a defensive game to keep the score as low as possible. The game settled into a pattern of us attacking wide and Rangers scrambling in defence or watching the cross balls sail harmlessly over the bar. They never really threatened us in the second half and we were unlucky not to have put another three or four in.

Our team today was PETER in goals, defence LIAM, TOM, DHESH, and CHRIS, the mid field was KENNY, TERRY, ROLY, DAVE, NICK, while up front we had PAUL and MARC.

Well done boys not a pretty win but a good win all the same.

OVER 35/2

THORNLEIGH 2 vs GLADESVILLE RAVENS 2

After a disappointing 6-1 loss in our last game we decided that we needed to take some measures to ensure a better result this week. Therefore we took a trip to our local chemist and discreetly asked for some medication that would enable us to perform better. Unfortunately the very obliging chemist looked at our ages and misinterpreted our request and none of us failed to notice the Viagra label on the side of the bottles before we consumed our medication.

As the game started we were still trying to understand whether it was a prostate problem that was causing the embarrassing swelling in our groin area. It is certainly not unusual for some of our muscle to get stiff towards the end of our games but it was unusual to get stiff so early in a game and particularly off-putting for this particular muscle to get stiff (at any time at our age). Consequently, we soon found ourselves a goal behind as we were distracted by the awkward condition that we suffered. The obvious physical effects of our Viagra were certainly disconcerting for us however our opposition were even more concerned as they became aware of our "special" condition. Suddenly we found that our opponents were giving us a lot more space (except for Ross who seemed to attract extra close marking from his opposite number). PAUL HOWELLS took advantage of a temporary lapse of concentration by Ravens to slot one home (a goal that is!)

The match was even for a long period of time however we started to struggle under a barrage of free kicks against us for poking our opponents in the back. We were also tiring quickly due to the blood that carries the vital oxygen to our lungs being concentrated elsewhere in our bodies. Eventually Ravens seized on our weariness to score again and restore their lead.

As the end of the game approached, the effects of our medication started to wear off and the blood trapped in our nether area started to provide oxygen to our lungs again. It was becoming apparent that a climax was approaching. Indeed our expectations were met when BRENDAN ROSE and KARL DAVIES combined to score an equaliser.

The full time whistle blew shortly after to end the game at 2-2. We shook hands with our opponents (which they did with much trepidation), Ross and his opposite number exchanged telephone numbers and we all enjoyed a few beers whilst contemplating how to improve our football performance next week.

PA to Mr X

PREMIER LEAGUE /1ST GRADE

THORNLEIGH 2 vs KENTHURST 1

A physicist is a scientist who studies or practises physics. Physicists study a wide range of physical phenomena in many branches of physics spanning all length scales: from sub-atomic particles of which all ordinary matter is made (particle physics) to the great footballing theorems, none more famous than the "Thunder Theory of Relativity".

Albert Einstein stated that: If $A = W$, then $B = L$, though if $A = L$ then, $B = W$

Einstein's theory was based on the odd, yet always accurate results of the Thunder Premier League which when put into practice saw (A) Reserve grade's result predict (B) first grades results. i.e. when reserve grade lost, first grade won, and on the flip side, when reserves won, firsts lost.

A shock wave was felt across the scientific world this weekend, when the Thunder Theory of Relativity was proved to be wrong. In a statement put out by the University of Cambridge's, Stephen Hawking (CH, CBE, FRS, FRSA and professor of Mathematics) stated his shock at such a widely adopted theory being proved incorrect.

Hawking wrote, "Today, 2 goals by Thunder's first grade (an own goal scored by Kenthurst, and 1 by BEN PIKE), saw Thunder first grade, come away with a 2-1 victory, rocketing them into 2nd place. Albert Einstein's theorem, the Thunder Theory of Relativity, can no longer be regarded in the same light as it has been held for years and it brings me no pleasure in discounting the theorem as false, as on the same weekend, the Thunder reserve grade also won. I am releasing this official statement in the hope that we can prevent society into escalating into war. Please remain calm - we can again see this theory be put into practice this coming weekend when the Thunder Premier League take on Pacific Hills at Oakleigh oval (1:15pm and 3:15pm), in a first place vs second place encounter - we expect the theory to remain broken" Hawking was later seen entering a bomb shelter.

PREMIER LEAGUE /RESERVES

THORNLEIGH 1 vs KENTHURST 0

0 = 0

1 = 0.999~

Thunder 0.999~ vs Kenthurst 0

Regular viewers may be scratching their heads at depicting a 1 to 0 score line as 0.999~ to 0, but as I will outline below, football is about learning.

Let me explain:

$0.333\sim = 1/3$

$3 \times 0.333\sim = 0.999\sim$

$3 \times 1/3 = 1$

$3 \times 1 / 3 = 1$

Therefore: $0.999\sim = 1$

From this day forward, $1 = 0.999\sim$.

But I digress; Thunder dominated play for the whole game with OLLY PITTMAN providing all the pace and width any coach could ask for on the left wing, and his cross/ shot lead to the only goal of the game with a low driven ball deflecting off a Kenthurst player and into the net. Thunder could have scored a bag full of goals with a number of chances begging to be scored. It ended 0.999~ to 0. A great result that keeps us in touch with the leading pack. 3 wins. 3 Losses. A solid start!

In next week's episode, we will convert the word "THUNDER" from ASCII to binary

(01110100011010000111010101101110011001000110010101110010)

