

Deadline for Blue & Gold: MONDAY 3pm Email to: mokdsi.george@gmail.com



President's Report:

Hard to believe we are so far through the season!

Another wonderful round and thank you so much to everyone who erred on the side of 'respect'. Sometimes it's so hard not to yell out a critical comment or what you may believe is definitely needed advice to an official. We had an incident free round! Which of course is as it should be. Thank you.

The sportsmanship I witnessed from our team when the ambulance was needed and our player was raced to Hospital was great. I've not seen that intensity clapping a player off the field. I do understand that it was a dramatic time. (Recovering well now).

So much fun watching the players having fun, leaning into the curve as the balls fly towards a corner of the goals, willing and therefore helping the kids to keep their feet on the ground during throws, living every moment as the game twists and turns.

....and that's what it's all about: having a ball. What proved to be a tough round, was a rewarding round. Enjoy training. We're all going to need to be singing about keeping the rain away on Friday.

See you on the ovals, smiling and living the fun :-)

Kind regards, Geoff Knowles Thunder President

Important Notices:-

Please send the match scores immediately after the game to George Mokdsi on 0403871543. Some are still forgetting to send this promptly or with incomplete information (include your full team details and opposition). Having to follow up is very costly in time - 20 min job quickly turns into hours. Set yourself a reminder for end of Saturday or Sunday. Even message if it is a forfeit or bye – this saves time! Managers need to be responsible for this and make sure it is accurate. Confirm score with the referee or other manager. Managers need to also let George Mokdsi know if the task has been assigned to someone else.

The e-mail address for Match Reports this season is <u>mokdsi.george@gmail.com</u>. **Submissions should be in Arial, font size 9** and attached as a word document to your e-mail is preferred. Please have your match reports sent by 3pm on the Monday following the weekend's match. Even if you miss deadline send it anyway and it may be ok or can go into following week.

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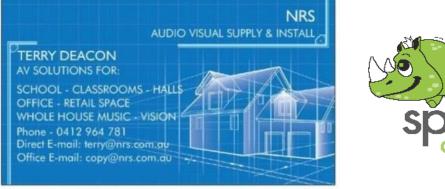


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MATCH REPORTS FROM 11th June 2016:

U6 Purple Thornleigh vs Thornleigh

Saturday's local derby between the two Thornleigh Thunder sides saw a close hard fought match with both sides giving it there all for the full 40 minutes.

Our team since the start of the session have improved leaps and bounds and this was certainly evident during this weekends match with some fantastic individual and team performances across the entire team. Two of the player to watch for in the first half were Rebecca Tilley and Lilly Parkinson who were both relentless in there defence making it extremely difficult for the opposing team to break through our defensive line.

The second half saw some terrific individual performance by Aaron Chinniah, Lachlan Bromiley and Jeremy Beard who all made blistering attacks sometimes covering over half the field to score goals.

Once again it was a fantastic performance by both teams and thank you to all the parents of both sides for their enthusiasm, support and encouragement of both teams.

Under 9 Blue Thornleigh vs Kenthurst

By training on Wednesday you could see how much the boys had missed playing due to the weather. They were all ready to go by the first whistle.

Early on we were moving the ball around well especially in attack. We were also keeping possession well which led to our first goal!

After this Kenthurst got back into the game and it became an end to end game. At times our passing and defence was great and other times we let Kenthurst back into the game and put pressure on ourselves.

At half time we spoke about a few key areas we needed to improve on and how we could do it. Although we at times were in complete control we also were turning the ball over easily and putting pressure on ourselves.

The second half was a battle for the whole 20 minutes. Our defence withstood the pressure from Kenthurst well and made everything difficult. This has been a key to our recent performance and good results.

Both sides scored in the second half and the game was played at a fast pace all the way through. One of the most impressive things about these kids is the way they fight hard all game whether they are playing well or not. Today was no different and I am proud of the way the team worked hard together and for each other.

U11 Red Thornleigh vs Epping

Thunder U11 Red came back refreshed from a storm induced break to face a strong Epping side that caused us problems earlier in the season. In glorious sunshine, Epping began the game on the front foot and tested the Thunder defensive structures to the fullest extent. The midfield of Sophia, Nick James, Foxy were repeatedly breaking down attack after attack and showed excellent spacial awareness when the ball was being passed around them. The defensive backline of George and LK stood firm with LK putting his body on the line while George showed excellent anticipation to break down advancing attackers. Eric was marshalling the defence well but when called upon, produced a remarkable save that was heading to the top corner...a fabulous stop. Then came Thunder's turn to attack. James, instrumental in midfield, fed the industrious Sophia and Nick who quickly supplied super crosses for LB, Hamish and Ysobel to shoot, however Epping's defence was equal to the challenge.

The second half started as an equal contest with Foxy and Sophia thwarting Epping's early advances. Eric and James controlled the midfield and sent multiple rule-passes down the channels for LK and George to create crossing opportunities and corners. Both Nick and George came very close to scoring but were denied by equally good defending from Epping. With Hamish playing through a blistered pain barrier and Nick coming close with instinctive efforts, it felt like only a matter of time before the net bulged. But it was Epping's turn transitioned defence into attack with balls over the top for the lonely keeper of LB to protect the goal. Overall, Thunder learned that defending is a critical part of the game the team can support each other when the going gets tough. A great game, played in the right respectful manner, ended with Foxy taking out the player of the game for his attitude, commitment and perseverance – well done to Foxy and his team mates on a game well played.

Under 14/3 vs West Ryde Rovers

It was a typical winter's morning, blue skies, with a chill in the air.

Thornleigh Thunders under 14/3s gathered at Meadowbank no 8 to play against West Ryde Rovers.

The usual pre-match warm up was performed and Kel ran the team through their tactics for the day.

The kick off started on time and the first goal was conceded to the West Ryde Rovers within fifteen minutes. Thunders, through shear determination fought back. Tom played goalie in the first half and played a critical role in saving a few goals and keeping West Ryde Rovers at bay. Twenty five minutes into the game West Ryde Rover's attempted another goal, but was thwarted by the brilliance of Tom's goal keeping.

Thornleigh Thunders struck with their first goal towards the end of the first half, with Matthew bringing the ball up from midfield to produce the much needed goal and even out the score at half time.

The team started the second half even more determined than ever. Lucas came in to play Goalie for the first fifteen minutes of the second half. Within five minutes of the second half Riley came up trumps for the Thunders with their second goal. A pass from Callum to Riley saw the Thunders striking with their third Goal and Riley's second for the game. Shortly thereafter a direct penalty was awarded to Thornleigh from a foul within the box. Megan stepped up to take the penalty kick and skillfully placed the ball in the nets to score the Thunders fourth goal, and the final goal for the game for the two teams. Half way through second half Will took over the role as Goalie. The efforts of the Thunders mid halves and the backs, along with goalie kept the West Ryde Rovers at bay.

The pressure was kept up by the Thunders forwards for the remainder of the second half to the end of the game. Final score 4 - 1 to Thornleigh Thunders. This win was truly a team spirited effort, well done Thornleigh Thunders.

Our defence this week gave very few chances to our opposition. This started from Rocco in goals who is coming off his line well and at the right time. Luca, Nathan, Jayden and Auden all played a part in our defence and are making it difficult for the opposition week in and week out.

The attack today worked hard and didn't have a lot of luck go their way. There were a few times when it clicked and they made the opposition look like they were standing still! The Kenthurst defence made it difficult for our attack of Franco, Auden, Daniel and Levi but to their credit they kept to the game plan and didn't get frustrated at the lack of chances.

Overall the development of the team has been a pleasure to watch. They are keen to learn and as a team are getting stronger and stronger every week.

Player of the week was Auden Clark who plays various roles every week. It is rare to have someone at this age that not only plays different positions but does them well. This makes it easier for the coach and for the team. Well done Auden!