



GLADIATORS

YEAR BOOK 2024

December 2024

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Gladiators Community,

In 2024, the Gladiators fielded five girls teams and 20 boys teams with 10 teams making it to the finals.

Magnificently, our U11 Cooper, U14 Girls, U15 Gnatts and both U16 Boys teams played through to their Grand Final, with three taking away premierships. The U10 Bowman team was a runner up in their division of the U10 Lightning Premiership. Well done to all of our players for a fantastic season.

Our Auskick program also continued strongly at Righetti Oval and Anderson Park. The YJFL ran the U7 competition again in 2024 where we fielded four teams.

A hearty thanks to all of our coaches, team managers, trainers, runners, umpires and everyone who volunteered in one way or another. It's a massive team effort and everyone's contribution is important!

Pathways

Our strongest year of YJFL representation to date, with eight boys playing across U14 and U15 and four girls playing in U14 in league representation games. A number of these players have also been successfully nominated for tryouts at both the Oakleigh Chargers and Sandringham Dragons.

We also had strong performances by our players in the YJFL Best and Fairest voting, with three league B&F winners and many other players finishing in the top five. Congratulations to these players.

Social and Sponsorship

A successful social function was held mid-year, raising valuable funds for the new scoreboard at Righetti. We finally have relevant permits approved and construction of the scoreboard will commence pre-Christmas, with completion due well in advance of the 2025 season. Thanks to Nick Schildberger for his fundraising efforts and Jane McGill for organizing the evening.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors for their ongoing support in 2024. Our platinum sponsors: Grill'd, Jellis Craig, MHT Dentistry, Mills Oakley and Teo's. Our gold sponsor: Glenmore Asset Management. And our bronze sponsor: Orrong Hotel.

Jack Davey

Recently we experienced the tragic passing of one of our players, Jack Davey. Jack wore #5, played 38 games for the Gladiators and was a much-loved member of the U11 Winnett team in 2024. Some of our players were also injured in the accident but are recovering well. Thank you to everyone on the committee and the broader Gladiators family for your support and assistance to the Davey family and the Auburn South Primary School community.

2025 Registrations

Registrations will soon open for the 2025 season. Register early and take advantage of the early-bird discount.

Committee Roles

A number of long-standing committee members are retiring at the end of 2024, myself included, and I would like to acknowledge their contribution to the club.

Damien Beechey has served as Treasurer for five years. Damien has been a highly valued contributor during his time on the committee and is known for his studious, no fuss approach. Damien's wife, Rach, and son, Angus, have also been involved supporting our merchandise. I would like to acknowledge Damien's strong involvement in a number of key fundraising projects, particularly the Ferrie Oval lights and Righetti scoreboard.

Nat Simmance has been Team Manager Coordinator for many years. Nat's calm and unassuming manner has kept the TMs well organised and in line, no mean feat!

Thank you Damien and Nat for your contribution to Gladiators over many years.

Many thanks to our continuing committee members for their efforts and continued commitment as well as to our newly elected committee members who have stepped up. I have great confidence in their ability to take our club forward and make it even better than it is today.

A year at Gladiators can't go by without mentioning Jan Gnatt. We are all very grateful for his tireless efforts, commitment and passion for our great club.

Farewell

Farewell and thanks for having me as President. I'm very grateful for the support provided and most of all, I'm thankful for all of the great friendships and memories I've made along the way. I'll miss all of the discussions and chats with committee members and parents about how we can make Gladiators a better place for kids to play club football.

Kirstin Krauskopf and Nick Schildberger are taking over as Co-Presidents and I look forward to seeing them take the Gladiators onwards and upwards!

My three kids will still be playing in 2025 so I'm sure I'll see many of you at games in the future.

All the best and go Gladiators!

Dave Barnaby

BEST AND FAIREST

U/10 Bowman	Shayan Deshpande
U/10 Winnett	Monty Farquharson
U/11 Cooper	Luke Johnston
U/11 Winnett	Jesse Jamieson
U/12 Gnatt	Campbell Gregory
U/12 Hanger	Lachlan O'Brien
U/13 Gnatt	Ed Barnaby
U/14 Gnatt	Marcus Oh
U/14 Winnett	Tom Park
U/15 Gnatt	Sacha Demetriou
U/16 Newton	Sam Mellor
U/16 Gnatt	Bradley Johnstone
U/9 Girls	Clementine Tan
U/12 Girls	Juliet Brooke
U/13 Girls	Evie Brooke
U/14 Girls	Sofia Barnaby
Youth Girls	Emma Bradshaw (Ashburton)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Ian Hanly Memorial Trophy

U/10 Winnett

Herbie Jones

Justin "JOC" O'Connor Commemorative Award

U/10 Cooper

Robbie Bobeff

Eleanor Brown Encouragement Award

U/9 Girls

Isobel Blennerhassett

100 GAMES IN 2024

Ivy Cockerell

Tom Schubert

Sam Hewitt

Paddy Benson

Oliver Cooper

Bradley Johnstone

James Hay

Will Keller

Billy Reid

Max Tucker

Ollie Condon

Harry Giffard

Nimalan Suresh

U8 BRYAN

Team Manger Report

A special thank you to Hailey Gale for stepping up as the team manager this season. Your dedication, organisation, and support have been instrumental in ensuring everything ran smoothly, and the team is incredibly grateful for all your hard work.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents for their unwavering support and encouragement of the kids throughout the season. Your active involvement, whether through volunteering for roles such as canteen duty, BBQs, timekeeping, or assisting on game days and during training sessions, has been invaluable. Your dedication and enthusiasm have played a significant role in creating a positive and supportive environment for the team, and we deeply appreciate everything you've done to make this season such a success.



Coaches Report

The Bryan Under 8's had an exceptional season, marked by growth, development, and teamwork. For many players, it was their first experience with football, and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. The team fostered strong friendships and demonstrated outstanding camaraderie both on and off the field. Season highlights included the privilege of playing on ANZAC Day, where they honoured its traditions in a meaningful pre-game ceremony, as well as the excitement of Friday night games under the lights, creating lasting memories for players and supporters alike. Each player made a unique contribution to the team, showcasing their skills, sportsmanship, and leadership. This season truly embodied the spirit of junior football, and the team eagerly looks forward to continuing this journey next year with even greater success.

As a coach, my focus this season was on cultivating leadership both on and off the field. I encouraged the players to support each other, lead by example, and carry these important lessons into their daily lives.

Every player played a pivotal role in the team's spirit and performance. Whether it was their first kick or their first goal, each milestone was celebrated with pride. Watching the team tackle challenges with determination and enthusiasm was an absolute joy.

Each player brought unique qualities that contributed to the team's success and cohesion. Their dedication and development throughout the season were commendable, and they played with immense heart and passion.

A special thanks to Mick Jackson for his invaluable role as assistant coach this season. His support and effort in ensuring game days ran smoothly were instrumental in the team's success, and his contributions were greatly appreciated by both players and parents alike.

Individual player summaries:

Zayn: Enthusiastic and friendly, improved significantly over the season, and well-liked by teammates. Celebrated kicking a few goals.

Darcy: A key defensive player who protected the goal square. Enjoyed the season and brought a lively, fun energy to the team.

Hamish: Showed strong natural ability and was a consistent, reliable teammate. Demonstrated great manners and potential for further growth.

Max: A versatile player, able to excel in any position. Known for leadership qualities, resilience, and positivity throughout the season.

George: A competitive and hardworking player, respected for his consistency, skills, and leadership on and off the field.

Oli: A key team player with excellent skills and leadership qualities, always willing to help teammates improve. Displayed intensity and joy for the game.

Sammy: One of the most improved players, focused on tackling and marking. A respectful and polite teammate who enjoyed the season.

Bobby: A solid, reliable player, admired as a leader by teammates. Worked hard during games and training and showed great sportsmanship.

Dash: Passionate and intense on the field, contributed significantly with his athletic ability and determination. A highly impactful team player.

Hunter: Brought a fun, lighthearted energy to the team while showing significant improvement and reliability throughout the season.

Jimmy: A valuable player who always gave his best effort. Kind, respectful, and a joy to coach, with strong team contributions.

Jackson: A standout player known for kicking goals, tackling, and diving marks. A popular and well-loved teammate with a positive attitude.

Hugo: Consistent and competitive, a natural leader who supported his teammates on and off the field. Highly respected and a great contributor.

Finn: Showed courage as a newcomer, making a strong impact on the team. Well-liked and respected, with a positive attitude towards learning and growing.



U8 COOPER

Team Manager's Report

It has been an absolute pleasure being involved in this team in 2024. For many of the kids and parents, this was their first year in the Gladiators, and their first year playing matches. It was rewarding to see the kids progress and improve their skills through the year, but most impressive was their commitment to their teammates, their joy in winning, and their increasing maturity in dealing with losses (even though no one was keeping score!)

Coach Rowan Miller and Assistant Coach Cooch did a fantastic job working on their skills, fostering their passion for the game, and making sure they approached everything with the right attitude. I'd also like to thank all the parents for always stepping up when they were asked to volunteer and making sure the kids were on time.



Coach's Report

It was a pleasure to watch the enthusiasm from the U8 Cooper team in both training and games. We had the goals at the start of the year to have fun, build core footy skills and play footy with the right spirit, towards opposition and umpires. We ticked all those goals, and it was great to watch the team grow and develop.

Some key notable stats / highlights for the year:

- Games played – 17 (13 full games and 4 round robin games). 60 quarters and 9 hours and 28 minutes of footy under the belt!
- First goal of the season – Lachie McEwan
- Last goal of the season – Ben Veltman
- Number of Friday night games – 3
- Coldest day – away vs Ashburton. Reminder to always pack a bucket of hot water in mid-July for the hands.
- Consistency award – the seagulls swarming on the half time oranges.

Thanks also to the parents for the support during the year and a big shout out to the kids who made the year a whole lot of fun.

Rowan Miller



#2 Louis Slattery – worked hard all year on the fundamentals and got better each week. Learnt to put his body on the line to feed handballs to teammates and had a smile ear-to-ear for hours after his kicked his well-deserved first goal on Friday night late in the year.

#3 Ben Veltman – always popped up for a goal when we needed one and had a personality which made sure the boys had fun all year around him. A booming kick, a great reader of the play and a master of the goal celebration.

#4 Max Stammers – passion personified, Max put his heart and sole into everything and was a sight to see dashing down the wing of Ferrie Oval with the ball tucked under his arm. A great kick and tried every game with his tackle pressure and talk.

#5 Ollie Christie – a tackle machine, made it his goal to stop the opposition and win the ball back with relentless pressure. Deserved reward with a bouncing first goal towards the end of the year and was a great student of the game.

#6 Albie Dennis – worked super hard on his kicking and by the end of the year was kicking beautifully and hunting the ball like a pro. Dished out handballs like a true midfield / fwd and was a pleasure to coach with his desired to learn.

#7 Oliver Cohen – relished the physical side of the game and was always keen to stick his head over the ball and win it for his teammates. Worked hard on his kicking which shone through and showed up all year in training and games with a great attitude.

#8 Will Dennis – worked his way into each game as an in-and-under player who worked hard all year to build confidence going for the ball and became and handball machine in the packs. Had a blinder Friday night late in the year as he came into his own with belief.

#9 Raf Collier – a great reader of the play, always came to the ball with intent and frequently found him at the bottom of the pack with the ball working hard for his teammates. A beautiful long left foot which delivered a number of goals when we needed them during the year.

#10 George Follett – massive smile to match his massive, long right foot kicks. Kicked some key goals during the year and always brought fun to the team. Relished the final Friday night game with a BOG performance as his found his feet as a tall strong kid.

#11 Leo Miller – a smooth user of the ball by hand or foot and always looked to bring his teammates into the game. Perfected the art of taking the ball from the ruck to give his team first use. A goal-of-the-year dribbler from the boundary in arctic conditions in Ashburton.

#12 George Cooch – silky skills and smart positioning allowed George to rack up the touches and share the ball with teammates. Highlighted by two long goals from outside the arch on Ferrie, which get longer with each retelling.

#13 Edison Papps – fierce attack on the ball and would always run hard to make each contest. A tackle machine with a great goal sense and a long kick to match. A teammate that all others looked up to with his skills and endeavour.

#14 Lachie McEwin – could smell the goals from a mile away and would run through a brick wall to get them. Broke a lot of tackles all year and always gave a 100% with his run, chase and tackle.



U8 GNATT

The U8 Gnatt's had a sensational start to their football careers. It's been a joy to see how quickly the boys formed a bond and played for each other during a very successful season. Every week the boys demonstrated the club values, building an environment of respect, staying positive and having fun.

A huge thank you our Team Manager Anya Phillips who did all the heavy lifting, and to my assistant coaches Nick Carr and Chris Wilkins who helped create a fantastic environment for kids to feel safe, learn skills and the game of footy, and do their best. Enjoy our player profiles!

All in all our boys have lots to be proud of. When under pressure, they rallied with a fierce determination to work together as a team. No one was left behind, and the care they had for each other was infectious and led to many fun sessions, whether that was training, parents enjoying each other's company at the club, or on game day. Club footy is about community and it's been awesome to see everyone pitch in and be part of the Gnatt's success, and our boys development this year. Some have already started their pre-season so expect our boys to come back bigger and better next year.

Mark Lush (Coach)



Paddy 'Don't Argue' Whitear announced himself when he channelled Dustin Martin with his fend offs and sharp runs to clear a pack once he got his hands on the ball.

Zac "The Lightning" Frost had an uncanny ability to get in the right places especially up forward this year, and swing on to his laser like left foot to hit the scoreboard early.

Tom 'Pack Marks' Wilkins whose fearless marking meant the opposition found it very difficult to pierce our team defence as Tom consistently repelled the attacking ball.

Benji "Brownlow" Phillips led from the front, combining his silky skills on both sides of the body, while also making great choices to selflessly bring his teammates into the game.

Noah 'Nitro' Dixon using his unbelievable speed to win a ball in dispute and explode off the ground to break packs, and snag a goal with a signature Sunday barrel!

Harry "Houdini" Scott, one of the teams most determined defenders seen striding through the middle of the ground, taking a bounce and delivering the ball lace out to his teammates.

Harrison 'the Hurricane' Lush whose energy and celebrations lifted the team, and who kicked a contender for Ferrie Oval goal of the season with a long range dribble kick from the boundary.



Wesley "The Weapon" Boyes whose tap work in the ruck when called upon has been first class, helping his teammates score goals or get the ball moving forward.

Charlie 'the Smiling Assassin' Herron is not big on bluster, but whose versatility meant the coaches could give him any job and he would devastate teams with his footy nous and sublime skills.

Tommy "Barrels" Brewster's natural instinct for where the goals are meant he often hit the scoreboard at crucial times, and proved a strong 1-2 punch up forward with his team mates.

Hamish 'the Bull' Carr who stamped his trademark tackling on the competition. If goals saved are equal to goals scored, Hamish has been one of our highest scorers this season.

Lewis "Tower of the Power" Johnston a regular rock, paper, scissors champion loomed large on the ground whether standing tall in the ruck, dashing of defence, or a letting rip a booming shot for goal.

'Flying' Freddie Howlett whose bustling runs and barnstorming defence showed his teammates how committed he was to putting his body on the line and kept giving his all.



U8 OLDFIELD

Team Manager Report

The U8 Oldfields would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsor, Simon & Nat Guest from Green Cup, for their support and contribution throughout the year.

We started as a mixed bunch of boys from Malvern Central and Auburn South Schools and thanks to the huge effort and dedication of our Coach Jack Bell and Assistant Coach Matt Elliott, completed the season as a cohesive and tight knit group, who improved immensely as individuals and as a team.

A huge thank you to all our wonderful families who turned out every week to cheer on the boys and also volunteer, in particular Anthony Lim as our reliable and dedicated trainer. A very special and memorable first year of footy for the boys and their families.



Coaches Report

A brilliant club, supportive parents and a group of boys that had the right mix of passion, enthusiasm and determination, was the perfect recipe for a memorable and successful first season of footy for the U8 Oldfields!

We started the year by introducing 4 Fs as a basic framework to guide the way we trained and played.

1. Focus – Concentrating on where we are and what we are doing
2. Fast – Moving the ball quickly and directly to our advantage
3. Fearless – Being brave and having a go
4. Fun – Creating a supportive and positive environment to ultimately have some fun!

From a disorderly first training session (probably more the coach's fault) to a passage of play in the final game where the ball was moved from one end of the ground to the other with 4 swift kicks, marks and a goal – the continuous improvement from the group across the season in all these areas was immense.

Starting the season with a neat 12 players, didn't leave a lot (any!) of room for absenteeism to field a full side but week on week (rain, hail or shine) the boys turned up ready to go! We did have some late season ski legends in the team, but through some expert team management identified some future gladiator stars to bring into the mix and ensure we had a full team each week.

Thanks to all around the club that make it possible. From the committee, to Jan, to the umpires to the canteen helpers it's an awesome club. A massive thanks to our Team Manager Gus McQueen did not miss a single beat all season, making it a seamless operation throughout! Look forward to many more great seasons!



Our list of stars below:

Tommy "Goal sneak" Guest - Agile and smart, this player always makes sure he's in the right spot and ready to sneak a crucial goal or two.

Paxton "Buller bull" Russell - Picked up in the mid-season draft, Paxton added some well needed height and strength to the Green Cups before we lost him again to Mt. Buller. A fierce listener and fast leaner.

James "Jim" Lim - Bringing a fantastic attitude to every aspect of his footy James got our "Mr Spin" award for his signature move spinning out of tackles and confusing his opponents (sometimes even himself!).

Archie "Bargy" Fransella – Fearless, strong and hard at the ball. Archie Francella brought great courage and some good old argy-bargy to every position he played

Hamish "Go-go" Oh – Our best listener and reader of the play, always managing to position himself in great spots and responded to any challenge given to him by the coaches.

"Action" Jackson Griffiths - Rock solid when playing defence, and one of the best & biggest boots in the league, often clearing the middle third of the ground when rebounding from the backline.

"Pocket" Rocket Roche - Always smiling and spreading good vibes, and consistently improved throughout the season to become one of our tougher players, always at the bottom of the pack

Charlie "Hollywood" Bell – Our leading goalscorer for the season showed plenty of flair on the field and didn't mind continuing that into his goal celebrations.

Oscar "Tower" Zimble - A dedicated team player who showed great improvement over the season to become an important member of the team as our star ruckman.

Wilfred "Bulldozer" Elliott – A fierce competitor, Dusty Martin 2.0, not unusual to see him take on the entire opposition with ball tucked under his arm.

Jack "Lightning" McQueen – Fast, skilful and tough, all the makings of a future star. Equally as dangerous without the ball as he is with it, a tackling machine.

Jack "No Fuss" Brooke - A great, no-fuss attitude, high degree of skill, no doubt honed at home with his two older gladiator star sisters.

Boston "Top Gun" Gunnensen – Fearless and tough, he led from the front. A natural talent who won the ball for fun and didn't mind an opportunity to slam through a few goals as well.

Harry "Footy" Allen - Despite only playing a handful of games Harry had a huge impact. Already plays like he's got years of experience (or a Dad who's stuck him in front of endless Hawks replays from the golden era).

Ollie "Dempsey" Lewis – A rising star coming from a school of hard knocks in a household of four boys has no doubt shaped this fierce little competitor with his clean hands, good skills and an impressive long kick.

Hughie "Dewey" Lewis - A late comer also, but with a massive impact on the game having scored a goal in every game he played, will no doubt give backlines headaches for years to come

Tom "Bigman" Littlechild - Littlechild by name but certainly not by nature. Another one of our late season recruits, this little champ didn't take a backward step. Full of enthusiasm and a big future ahead.



U8 WINNETT

What a year for Team Winnett, it is amazing to see how much things can change in a season! The team has gone from a group of strangers, to a cohesive group, that turn up each week, excited to see each other and play football.

The team have evolved their game over the season from a grab and kick (as far as you can) to being more considered with the ball and looking for a teammate. They also loved the contested nature of the game; desperate tackles, smothers, and the goal saving touches were celebrated as much as the goals.

It was an absolute pleasure coaching these boys, they are such a great bunch of kids, and I loved watching them develop. A huge thank-you to the assistant coaches, Shaun and Aaron, who were always there to share the coaching duties and guide our boys. Our team manager, Phil, was steering the ship behind the scenes, the season would not have been such a success without all his hard work - so thank you!

Bring on 2025!!





Player reviews

Otis: A ferocious tackling machine with a great awareness of his opponent and where the goals. Would approach a contest with no fear, no matter how big the opposition.

Hudson: A strong and powerful midfielder, who could collect the ball under pressure with his clean hands. Huddy would break tackles and deliver the footy on a platter to the forwards.

Hendrix: A huge presence on (and off) the field which attracted the ball. Hendrix would use his size to crash the packs and take strong marks under pressure. A natural forward and always good for goal celebration too.

James: A competitor with great awareness of the game around him. Clean hands under pressure and was evasive when on the run.

Caleb: With the ball in his hand he could not be caught, a goal scoring machine. Without the ball in hand Caleb would hunt the other teams with his tackling.

Frankie: Has a great attitude to his footy. He loved the contest and showed a great understanding of the game. His hand passing under pressure was a pleasure to watch.

Beau: A real team player that the team loved having on the field. Selflessly, he would bring his team mates into the game but finally got his reward in the final game with that elusive goal.

Archie H: Had his breakout game halfway through the season where he had the ball on a string. Archie was the ultimate team player, who showed great improvement throughout the year.

Hugo: A competitor when he crossed the white line. He had a great defensive mindset and laid a number of goal saving tackles. However, a highlight was down the other end, with his mark and goal in his first game!

Lachie: The gentle giant- Lachie would throw his body around in the ruck to make sure the midfield got first possession. He grew so much as a footballer throughout the year, we were so proud of him.



U9 BRYAN

The U9 Bryan team kicked off the season with a merger of two teams from the previous year, and the boys quickly embraced new friendships, coming together to form a tight-knit unit. Throughout the year, the team's focus was all about teamwork and having fun, with every player rotating through different positions to gain experience. Slowly, but surely, the boys found their rhythm and grew from strength to strength.

With a strong combination of steadfast defenders, dynamic midfielders, and sharp goal-scorers, the team was competitive in every match. A highlight of the season was the annual round robin, where the boys played five matches and secured four wins, proving they could hold their own against the best in the league.



Coaches and parents were incredibly proud of the sportsmanship displayed by the boys. They always respected the umpires and the opposition, playing the game with great spirit and a positive attitude. Throughout the season, each player improved their skills, footy knowledge, and most importantly the ability to play as a cohesive team. It was a joy to see their progress and the genuine enjoyment they had playing footy.

A huge thank you to Jane McGill for being an amazing Team Manager, keeping the Bryan ship pointed in the right direction, and to Russell Smelter for serving as Trainer, ensuring the boys stayed fit and healthy throughout the season.

The season has been an incredible journey for the U9 Bryan team, and we couldn't be prouder of their growth, teamwork, and love for the game.

Henry Batrouney is super quick through the centre, always enthusiastic at training, and strong in every position he plays.

Hugo Elliott demonstrated massive improvement throughout the season, never stops chasing the ball, and always looks for a teammate when kicking.

Alfie Geier knows how to kick a goal, always thinks of the team first, and is versatile whether playing forward or in defence.

William Gilhorne is the Pendlebury of the team, showing leadership on the ground with a fire in his belly. When his hair is slicked back, it's a sure sign he's ready for a big game.

Ben Hanger is lightning fast out of the centre, with powerful long kicks into the forward line. He loves a good chat at training and keeps everyone entertained.

Lawson Harley's pace on the wing is unmatched, and he loves playing in all positions. Whether or not he kicked a goal this year, his banter at training has been top-notch.

Fraser Jensz is dynamic out of the centre, consistently kicks long to a teammate, and is super competitive in every game.

Louis Kent transferred from Prahran and quickly became known for his love of kicking goals. He's versatile in the midfield and was gunning for the Coleman medal with his forward prowess.

Harry McGill plays with his heart on his sleeve, known for his big chest marks and fearless crashing through the packs. He's the hard man of the team, always giving it his all.



Ollie O'Dwyer loves the hard ball, brings energy that his teammates love, and improved significantly throughout the season.

Tom O'Meara is keen to play in every position, showcasing silky skills and being the ultimate club man throughout the season.

Max Presnell loves tackling, is always hard at the ball, and can be relied upon in any position on the field. He also led the team with the most hard-ball gets for the season, showcasing his relentless determination.

Charlie Richards, the wrecking ball, is a force to be reckoned with. Whether he's breaking through packs or launching booming kicks, the match committee is always debating whether to play him forward or in defence.

Anton Schalken loves to play in every position, is dangerous around the goals, and never gives up, making him a key asset to the team.

River Scott is always hard at the ball, loves a good tackle, and is constantly looking out for his teammates on the field.

Mason Sculthorpe is a tackling machine, destined to be a key centre half-back in the future. He consistently breaks up packs and makes opposition players nervous whenever he's near.

Alec Smelter is quick along the wing, never gives up, and always gets his body behind the ball, making him a dependable player in every match.

Henry Teasdale – One of the quickest players in the team, Teaser loves taking a bounce and delivering perfect passes. When he's on, the whole team lifts, and he never backs down from a contest.



U9 GIRLS

U9 "Move My Wheels" Gladiators - James McDonnell, Nick Harrison, Eliza Bartlett

Extremely healthy numbers turned up for day 1 of pre-season back in March itching to be a part of the U9 Gladiators team for season 2024. What was particularly exciting was the fact that the vast majority of the players were new to the club, so we were looking forward to watching their development. Our numbers steadily grew as preseason continued and by the time it came to turn our attention to round 1, we had 18 players enthusiastically pull on the Gladiator jumper: 12 of whom were doing this for the first time.



After some really good signs in the first few rounds, the team was bolstered with the addition of 4 new players, who had brothers that were already playing at the club. They had come down to training to give it a try and we were delighted when they said they were keen to play. They fitted into a side that continued to improve as the year went on. Training was always well represented, which meant we were able to introduce new skills and drills that we then focussed on in games. We encouraged the girls to always try new skills such as bouncing, and it was amazing to see how quickly some of them picked it up. In the end, we won more games than we lost, which is a huge achievement, and the whole team should be very proud of how they performed this year. We look forward to further development next year!



The support and assistance we received this year from the parents was amazing and we are very thankful for this. Special mention to Mia Mackenzie, who helped us out during training during the year. Huge thanks also to team manager, Eliza Bartlett. It makes our job as coaches so much easier knowing there is great people behind the scenes doing all the hard work to ensure things go as smoothly as they did. Shout out too to our team trainer, Elle Chapman, who was always on standby to care for any of the girls that needed her assistance.

Special mention to the below award winners. They all had outstanding seasons:

Best and Fairest - Clementine Tan

Runner Up Best and Fairest - Imogen Cook

3rd Best and Fairest - Jade Orchard

Rising Star - Alice Trott

Most Determined - Lily Parikh

Eleanor Brown Encouragement Award - Isobel Blennerhassett

Player profiles

Alice Harrison – Has really come on from last season. More than often is at the bottom of a pack. Loves a goal saving tackle and this was most evident in our game against Ashburton where she laid about 6 or 7 in the last quarter. Alice is a great asset to the team.

Minty Rowler – Started training with us last year and we really enjoyed having her as part of the team this year. Shook off a brutal face smother against Canterbury and enjoyed her first goal as a Gladiator against Ashy.

Alex Ward – Was part of the basketball crop that came across to footy this year. Alex is an incredibly enthusiastic footballer and was happy to play in any position. Despite being new to the game and in a lot of cases playing against girls a lot bigger than her, she never shied away from the contest.

Penny Bell – Penny suited up for her second season this year and is a player who really enjoys being out there with her friends; especially her great mate, Frankie. She is more than happy to tackle girls that are twice her size, and she left her best game for last where she took a great pack mark and had a few shots at goal. Well done, Penny.

Sophia Bober – Never missed a training session and was one of the team's leading tacklers, who like Penny would have no hesitation in taking on much bigger opponents. Would always look to bring her teammates into the game with a handball but was also more than happy to swing onto her trusty left boot.

Georgia Lines – Another newbie, who trained with us a few times last year. She kept the coaches on their toes at training and was a great asset to the team. She played her best game for the year in the last game, and we look forward to her continuing that good form next year.

Sadie Hall-Haydon – New player, from the very first game she showed that she was going to be a player that was happy getting in there and having a real crack. Another player who got more confident as the year went on. Well done, Sadie.

Frankie Grant – Her love/hate relationship with footy from last year didn't really surface this year and we know deep down that Frankie really loves playing with her mates. As her confidence continues to grow, we have no doubt that she will develop into a fine player. She has already told the coaches that she is a lock-in for next year, so we look forward to that.

Abbie Wain – As probably our most reliable defender as the year went on, we knew that it would be a tough task for our opposition if we had Abbie playing in the backline. Having said that, she really enjoyed playing forward as well and a booming goal against Brunswick was a highlight.

Molly Forrest – Another new player to the team this year, Molly was always the first one at training. Living behind the oval probably helps....Molly really announced herself as a player to watch when we brought the tackle bags out at training for the first time. A more perfectly executed tackle you will never see. It is a thing of beauty. It might take Molly another season or so to build up the courage to do that to an opponent, but look out when she does.

Maggie Schwilk – Another member of the basketball team that has added football to her resume. The way Maggie went about it, you wouldn't have realised this was her first crack at footy. She was more than happy to get stuck in and win the ball and also put her body on the line on multiple occasions with full body smothers.

Coco Chapman – Another from the basketball crew, Coco is to be commended for giving footy a crack. We saw a little hint of what is to come with Coco when she won the goal kicking contest in the last training session of the year. Great work, Coco.

Tessa McDonnell – Instructive talk is probably the most important part of a team game like footy and Tessa probably lead the charge with hers this year. She is a great teammate to have on the field and is more than happy to play in any position on the ground. Her booming drop punts often put the team deep into attack and 4 goals against Park Orchards was a highlight.

Millie Jackson – Another newbie to the team, who worked very hard at her skills during training. She is another whose confidence kept growing the more games she played. Well done, Millie. I also hear you are smashing it on the netball court too!

Violet McGuinness – Tall and courageous and a lovely long kick, Violet was another huge asset to our side. She was very conscious of getting the ball to a teammate that was in a better spot on the ground and being able to kick the ball as accurately as she could do this whenever she had a chance. Violet was a pleasure to coach this year.

Rose Chamberlain – Another player who quickly improved her skills and was someone that we were happy to put into a position where the opposition were starting to do well. She used her height to her advantage and took many pack marks. Rose has a great big kick on her and we look forward to her developing this in the years to come.

Isobel Blennerhassett – Izzy and her great mate Minty trained with us for some of last year and this year she really developed as her confidence grew. By the end she had become one of our more dependable players. I think a future in the forward line beckons and her gather and goal in the wet against Brunswick was a real standout.

Alice Trott – Exceptional year for someone that had never played football before. Seeing Alice burst from a pack with a big smile on her face was a constant during a game. Loved kicking a goal and she did just this on many occasions throughout the season. We look forward to further development from Alice next year!

Lily Parikh – A key member of the team this year, Lily is another who has a never-give-up attitude. There were multiple games this year that she came off hurt but after a quick break she was straight back on and into the contest. She has a great left boot and can play in any position on the ground. A great year! Well done, Lily.

Jade Orchard – One of the more determined you will come across. She hated being beaten to the ball, so she made it a mission not to be. She took her game to the next level this season after a great start last year and we really loved watching her compete each week. Jade is another player, who has a lot to look forward to on the footy field. Well done, Jade on a great year.

Immy Cook – Immy bursting from a pack, twisting, turning, and baulking with a bounce or two was what we became used to seeing each game we played. Immy was the winner of the Rising Star award last year and she has really improved to another level this year. Well done, Immy. A promising footy career is certainly on the cards.

Clementine Tan – Another of the Malvern Central crew, Clem showed us that she was going to be a star of the future right from the first minute of footy she played. She plays on instinct and always gets to the right spots on the ground, which is easier said than done. She is quick and determined and has boundless energy. Clem has had a sensational year and we thoroughly enjoyed watching her perform this year. Well done, Clem!



U9 GNATT

The DSA Law U9 Gnatts had an incredible season! The coming together of two Under 8 teams and some new recruits created a winning formula.

Our squad, with its perfect mix of size, speed, strength and bravery; together with a 'never give up' attitude became a formidable team that was rarely beaten in the contest.

Under the excellent coaching of Stu and Andy, and with the support of a dedicated administration and enthusiastic parents, the season was truly enjoyable. The team, made up of boys from various schools, grew into not only an excellent team but also great mates over the season.

There were many highlights, but two standout moments were our thrilling, closely fought away games and come from behind stories against arch-rivals Ashburton and Camberwell.

With the spirit and talent we've shown, the team has the potential for greatness if we stick together.



Player Profiles

Will Addison showed great promise in his first full season with the Gladiators, with a number of highlights throughout the year – including kicking a few goals. Improving more and more every week.

Luca Alesci an up and coming star player who quietly contributed to the team's success with his consistent and reliable performances every week. Skills improving and growing with confidence as a result.

Harry Boyes a tall workhorse all over the ground, Harry's courage and intent saw him take down his opponents consistently in every game. Great to see a huge improvement in Harry's kicking skills this season.

Alexander Feeley was important for us all year up forward. Alex is a really smart footballer that reads the play well, knows how to create space and has excellent skills. Kicked some important goals for us and was a nightmare match-up for opposition defenders most weeks.

Lachie Hinshelwood the "wall" was unstoppable down back all year, showed aggression as well as great run and carry in the midfield each week. Another quite achiever and team player who had some great passages of play throughout the year. Well done to one of our under age group.

Josh Johnston versatile player who is athletic, courageous in the contest and crafty ball winner. Another under age player who has the potential for a fantastic year next year.

Oskar Kakos our nomination for "Goal of the Year" definitely goes to Oskar. Electrifying small forward who improved week on week as he gained confidence. Quick and evasive goal kicker who complemented our tall forwards so well.

George Karanakis was superb for us up forward this year or in the middle (I know you hated the backline rotation every week!!!). Became a real focal point at CHF and presented well each week. Continued to work hard on his skills and is a beautiful mark & kick. Hit the scoreboard for us most weeks. Can play both ends and has turned into a very important swing man when we need some assistance down back.

Johnny Koidl was cruelled by injury early in the season and was a big loss. Look forward to having you back on the park next year.

Seb Marks versatile player who is courageous in the contest and crafty ball winner. Great at ground level and around the ground all year. Another steady improver.

Charlie McLaren a fantastic year for Charlie who brought great effort to every game. His strength and size (despite being under age) created problems for the opposition wherever he played, with long kicks, tackling and strong marking highlights throughout the year. He was involved in many passages of play that helped the team have such a successful year.

Ollie Oldroyd a damaging and creative player, Ollie brought flair and imagination to the team's game plan, surprising his opponents with unexpected moves, taking strong overhead marks and kicking some fantastic goals.

Harry Stokes it's a pleasure to coach you Harry. A silky smooth footballer who makes it all look so easy, Harry's a versatile player who makes the most of every opportunity and is a valuable asset and a crucial player for the team.

Josh Trinh was a star on the wing and in the middle for the entire season. His damaging right foot, ability to read the game and fierce attacking nature was a pleasure watching his game develop throughout the year.

Jimmy Thomes athletic big man who found his home in the middle and also had a big impact on rotation forward and down back. A clearance specialist and strong overhead who impacted games. We look forward to a big year from Jimmy next season.

Jude Taylor a big improver throughout the season. Solid down back and a handy target in the forward line – kicking a number of goals. Will be a force next season.

Harry Wozencraft a stalwart in defence (and all other the ground for that matter), Harry improved week on week - and we really missed you when you were out, adapting to different roles as needed and performing admirably in each one. Following the coaches instructions brilliantly he was a handful for the opposition.

Harry Williams our little goal sneak Willodynamic and elusive, Harry was like a bolt of lightning, bursting out of packs, twisting and turning and kicking goals from all over the forward zone.



U9 OLDFIELD

The boys enjoyed another fun season together focusing on learning the game and developing their skills from last year.

A team of 18 enthusiastic boys rotated through all positions throughout the season and impressed us with their passing skills and attitude towards the game. Thanks to lots of coaching support from our keen parent group, the boys had an opportunity to focus their marking skills and set shot goal kicking at many training sessions as we prepared them for U10s next season. The boys shared the different roles throughout the season and all impressed us at each position.



Individual highlights were many. Max, Billy B and Beau were strong marking targets up forward while Ed and Quinn provided much needed run off the half back line. Spencer, Billy P and Ovi were ferocious with their tackling, and Will was our rock in defence. Hunter, Freddie and Alex enjoyed running through the midfield together, while both Tom G and Tom W were reliable utilities providing strong options at each end of the ground. James, Jack and Teddy often impressed in the midfield before pushing forward to kick goals. Ethan should also be highlighted for his development and is now a very talented midfield runner. Goal of the year was a hotly contested competition, with plenty of worthy candidates including Spencer, Billy, Hunter and Alex.

It was privilege to coach the boys for the season and we are all excited to see them come back next year in u10s and enjoy their first season without zones.

A special thank you to Rob Gregory for his team management this season and to all the parents as well.



U10 BOWMAN

During 2024, the Stronger Under 10 Bowman squad stepped up in grade, playing the closest form of football to the professionals, on full sized ovals, 18 on the park and coaches restricted to the bench, but it was no challenge for the Bowman boys. The team's themes for 2024 were "Team First", "Have Fun" and "Never Give Up", which was occasionally interpreted as "Have Fun First" and "Never give up chatting", although never on game day!!! It is also one of the best features of Gladiators footy that children from different schools can develop such close friendships with their footy mates over a few hours a week in what is a relatively short season.

In a change from 2024, there were two teams at Under 10 level (from three in under 9's) and Bowman benefited with key personnel from Teams Bowman and Cooper combining for a coaching Tour de force. Senior coach Nahum Ayliffe with assistant coaches Richard Burnett and Andrew Ryden were also ably assisted by a third assistant coach in Nick Schwal. In her first year as team manager, Carmela Ayliffe coordinated logistics, volunteers, coaches and just about everything else and on game day, team manager duties were shared between Carmela and Richard Drummond. Medical experts Ben Webb and Penny Stevens were on hand to assist with the occasional bandage, bruise and loose shoe lace.

New players in 2024 included Shayan Deshpande, who was previously played Aussie Rules footy in Singapore, and James Blackmore (whose Dad, Shane Blackmore, kindly agreed to sponsor the team through his business, Stronger Healthcare). Some familiar names were also welcomed back with Robbie Bobeff returning from an injury interrupted 2023, the coaches' sons (Lucas, Christian and the Felixes) returning and mid-season recruit, Jack "Super Boot" Roosenburg, resumed after a short stint exclusively playing the round ball game.





Early in the season, the team faced a challenging draw, initially playing in a small division comprised of a handful of teams, in which the two Ashburton teams were very strong. But starting the season with a few challenging games was exactly what Team Bowman needed, as they grew in confidence and their teamwork and ball movement improved throughout the season. Nick Schwal, Andrew Ryden, Liz Passador and Wes Tossoun championed mid-week training on Wednesdays, and combined with Team Training on Fridays, the team went from strength to strength. Highlights included a standout performance from Christian Burnet on what appeared to be a lake at TH King oval in the second last game of the season, Lucas' left foot goals (non-preferred foot), and a five goal quarter from Archer Stewart mid season. And who could forget a 1 point win against Canterbury in the middle of the season when nearly half the team was away and six top up players from Under 9s played their first under 10s game.

The last game of the season was a Lightning Premiership round played at Box Hill, where Team Bowman played off against eventual winners Ashburton for the ribbon. In the end Ashburton took the chocolates by just 7 points, after a resolute defence of their goal line during the game saw Bowman score repeated behinds and the boys just could not get the major needed. Across the day, Team Bowman gave up only two goals across all games, giving up only one goal to the Lightning Premiers and another to the third-placed Cobras. Bowman also held three teams goal-less. Nevertheless, finishing the season runners up Lightning Premiers was a real achievement from a team who had started looking anything but a cohesive unit and the top two finish was evidence of skill development but also that the boys had embraced the themes for 2024, of Team First, Never Give Up and Have Fun.

Notable mentions for 2024:

Joc O'Connor Commemorative Award Winner: Robbie Bobeff

Best and Fairest Winner: Shayan Deshpande

Runner Up Best and Fairest: Christian Burnet

Third Best and Fairest: Felix Schwal

Fourth Best and Fairest: Lucas Ayliffe

Fifth Best and Fairest: Archer Stewart

Other notable mentions:

Best ruckman and best goal celebration: James Maclean

Best Gee-up: Jack Manuell

First goal: George Grahame, Ollie Colbert

First goal of the first win: Xavier Vun

Team-first players included Jonah Tossoun, Rupert O'Brien and Nicolas Webb

Thanks to all the parent volunteers, bbq operators and taxi drivers. No doubt in 2025, Under 11 Bowman will be back stronger than ever, hoping to go one better and win a Premiership!



U10 WINNETT

A successful season for the U10 Winnett team. Despite a very late mix up of teams, which meant no pre-season, the boys hit the ground running. Whilst it took a few weeks for the group to get used to playing the whole field, everyone adapted well and we saw heaps of improvement throughout the year.

Every player made some significant gains this year and will set them all up for a big year in 2025. With a big pre-season and a year on the whole field under their belts, the boys are ready to tackle next season.

Well done to Monty Farquarson and Jack Stenson for winning best and fairest and runner up, as well as Herbie Jones who won the Ian Hanley Commemorative award. Well done to Sam Godfrey for most improved and special mention to Jakob Malcom who was a close runner up.

Another big thank you to all the parents who helped out again this season - Will Godfrey as TM, Nick Schildberger as runner and those who helped as trainers and boundary umpires.

As always thanks to all the parents and grandparents for getting the kids to training and game day each week.

See you all in 2025!

Matt and Josh





U11 COOPER

Highlight of the season was making the Grand Final where the boys got to celebrate by running through a banner at the start of the game. Even though the result didn't go our way, we couldn't be prouder of the team's performance and their determination on the day and throughout the whole season.

The boys grew throughout the season and it was so pleasing to see their teamwork and skills continually improve.



Player Profiles

Albie Callaghan had another great season in 2024, improving significantly on what he learned during his maiden season in 2023. Albie is a fast and reliable player on the wing, working with the midfield team to move the ball through to our forward half and taking some key intercept marks.

Robbie Carr, a stalwart in the Cooper team for a few years now, Robbie found a brilliant role using his torque and surefootedness to be a feared tackler particularly in the back half of the season. We can't wait to see what '25 brings.

Edward Chamberlain Tough with endless stamina, Teddy never stops short of a contest. He is consistently focused on where the ball is, how to get to it, and how to move it down the field. He remained a key player for the team throughout the season.

Lachlan Downing led our defensive team this year, with his consistent reliability. Never complaining about the position, he took it in his stride and was feared by the opponent's forwards.

Harrison Gratton doesn't shy away from taking a big mark in our forward team and going hard against the backline players from our opponents. He grew his skills and accuracy during the 2024 year, and we look forward to seeing what 2025 brings.

Ben Hanger While not an official player in the team, Benny was the very much part of the furniture in 2024. He delivered some incredible plays during the year and worked exceptionally well with the team each game.

Charlie Hanger had a great season in 24, and is a consistent player who regularly executes brilliant plays, often getting the ball from the mid-field through to a goal and making it look easy.

Joshua Hewitt played his first season with us this year after moving across from the Winnetts. He immediately became a trusted and valuable member of our team. His tackling in the backline often stopped the opposition from running into an open goal. We definitely look forward to watching his improvement in seasons to come.

Luke Johnston Evasive, agile and with laser accuracy, Luke had another fantastic year as a key player at the Gladiators. Luke is mild-mannered and headstrong, not letting the scoreboard or the umpires change his focus until the final siren.

Marcos Kalogeropoulos was an integral part of our forward line this season, often wheeling around on his trusted left foot to snag a goal. Hard at the football but always done with a cheeky smile on his face. He showed significant improvement throughout the season.

Marvin Lee started this season very new to football. He worked hard through the season and finished with a great mark, a strong kick and a passion for the game. We hope this passion continues and he builds on these skills in 2025.

James Lipchin is our king of selling some candy, often evading his opponent with his cheeky side steps. His football improved throughout the season and he always made training fun, often having his teammates in stitches with his cheeky humour.

Oliver Lipchin became a valuable member of the midfield team in 2024, he is agile, and steadfast, making tackling him a difficult task for opposing teams. We saw a huge improvement from Ollie from 2023 to 2024.

Jack Morris doesn't shy away from a chat at training, or a tough contest in a game. Jack has developed into a great footy player during 2024, he is reliable and has a bright future in 2025.

Andrew Nguyen was a reliable backline performer in 2024 and had a standout game at our qualifying final against Fitzroy. Andrew doesn't shy away from a contest and is a consistently good mark.

Cooper O'Meara is a key member of our forward team, working well with the midfield and wing players to convert and support contests in our inside 50. His marking and kicking have improved significantly during the 2024 year.

Xavier Olaes turned up to training one night for a trial and hasn't looked back. Having only played lunchtime footy at school, he faced a learning curve but soon rose to become an important member of the team. We hope to see him back in 2025.

Oliver Pristel, week after week Ollie would go up against a variety of different big and small ruck opponents to tough it out for the contest. Never afraid of getting hurt, he is a reliable, and consistent member of the team.

Jackson Scott had a breakthrough season in 2024, and became one of our most valuable players, helping less experienced players during the season. Always dependable, always where he was needed to be, he was likely the fittest on the side for 2024.

Ollie Simpson had a fantastic season and was an integral part of the team's success with his raking left foot kicks and determination to win the ball in the contest. His improvement throughout the season was a pleasure to watch and we look forward to seeing his continued improvement next season.

Lachlan Wilson had a great season in 2024, and became a key player in our forward line. Lachie didn't shy away from going for the ball, and moving it through the team.

Best and Fairest - Luke Johnston

Runner Up Best and Fairest - Jackson Scott

Most Valuable - Teddie Chamberlain

Most Improved - Ollie Lipchin

Coaches Award - Harrison Gratton



U11 WINNETT

2024 was another great season for the boys, with many highlights and significant improvements across the board. We were unlucky to miss finals, with a couple of untimely losses due to a lack of numbers on game day.

To put it into context, the Ashy Redbacks ended up winning the flag—a team we were very evenly matched against, with a 1:1 win/loss record during the year.



When it came to the best and fairest, the usual suspects featured heavily, but we also saw some new faces pop up.

Archer won the Most Attacking Player for his tremendous work in the centre in his first season with the Glads. His big body and strength in the contest make him incredibly hard to tackle and allow him to rack up 20+ possessions a game – 10 votes.

Theo (our boy from Austria) won the Most Determined Player for his incredible tackling and will to win every contest. Having only played AFL for about 18 months (you wouldn't know it!), there's no doubt he's our most improved player – 11 votes.



Fraser was second runner-up on 11 votes as well. He continues to make significant improvements each year, particularly with his ability to read the play and take countless marks, mainly across the half-back line. He works as hard as anyone on his game, and he (and the team) are enjoying the benefits of this commitment to his craft – 11 votes.

Harvey was runner-up again this year (and 6th in the league B&F). His love of footy shows in his performance each week, as he picks up a significant number of possessions and sets up many of our forward thrusts from the centre. His speed, foot skills, and ability to read the game are his assets, which see him feature in our best most weeks – 16 votes.

Jesse went back-to-back this year with another outstanding display of football. Worth noting, he was also 2nd in the league B&F—not too shabby! He is our all-round gun, with the ability to play any position. He's usually most effective for us in the ruck, feeding it down to our smalls or grabbing it himself and bombing it forward. He's very strong overhead and knows where the goals are, often snagging a couple of goals a game. A talent to watch out for in the future! – 18 votes.

With another season under their belts, the boys are working better as a team and have a greater understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses. This bodes well for next year, so let's hope we give the finals a good shake and maybe even win a flag!

Rick Ravensdale – Coach.

VALE JACK DAVEY

IN LOVING

memory of



JACK DAVEY

2013 - 2024



FOREVER A GLADIATOR, FOREVER MISSED

U12 GIRLS

We had a great start to the season with the number of girls who showed up to pre-season. It was a fun way to start and laid a solid foundation for the season ahead. Great to see girls connect with each other, and seeing the friendships strengthen throughout the season. Playing 14 rounds as a team, the importance of coming together as a team, being united, and supporting each other was one of the key highlights of the season.

First four games we played as an amazing team and stuck to our fundamentals and were rewarded with some strong wins and only conceding 3 points. Incredible to see some of the new players get involved and the more experienced players showing leadership.

Our capability was acknowledged with the league promoting us as the only U11 team in Division 1 U12 Girls. This proved a step too far with the girls playing against physically much bigger girls and as the season progressed it got tougher for the girls to confidently compete, however we never backed down and showed up every week with that fun and positive attitude.



The season highlights were:

First game in U12 where we played out of our skins against Camberwell. We rose to the occasion giving Camberwell a scare - lost only by 11 points to a team that was undefeated throughout the year.

Games against Warrandyte and Ashburton where we showed incredible resilience against physically much bigger opposition. Against Ashburton we defended well and held back an onslaught in the last quarter to get the win.

Our final game of the season against Hawthorn Citizens, saw the girls team spirit at the forefront. After not kicking a goal for the previous five games, we worked so hard to kick not one but two goals against the eventual premier. The girls were rewarded by the worm from Dan.

Juliet Brooke who might have broken a record for fastest 50 games!

Team Summary

Leadership - Senior Girls

Provided excellent role model for the less experienced girls. Provided the example that needed by set throughout the year regarding attitude at game time:

Nina Calvert, Jules Brooke, Abby Johnston, Lottie Strauch, Elle Dunn, Milla Carroll, Jemimah O'Brien

Effort - Reliability

Great attribute to have is consistency in performance and attitude.

Willow Duggal, Sienna Harrison, Indi McQueen, Chloe Prenc, Khalissa Kittikhoun, Maddie Gowland, Tia Doshi

Development - Improvement

Progress against yourself – not against other players. This group showed substantive development throughout the season against where they started. These girls showed a real desire to learn and continued to work hard and improve your skills and game sense - getting a little bit better with each training session and each game.

Izzy Wain, Tori Karanikas, Daisy Griffiths, Anais MacDonald, Millie Sheehan, Estelle Foley, Isla Crawshay, Claudia Oh, Maddie White, Lucy Cowl and Millie Cowl.

Toughness - Leading

These girls showed courage to take on opposition irrelevant of size and strength. Running into the contest, making tackle after tackle and putting their bodies on the line for their team. Often being the last line of defence and saving certain goals.

Maya Broadbent, Maddie Gibson, Grace O'Halloran, Sofia Quinn.



Awards

Coaches Award - Millie Sheehan

Gladiator Awards - Madi G, Grace, Estelle, Sophia Quinn

Third Best & Fairest - Anais MacDonald

Runner Up Best & Fairest - Lottie Strauch

Best & Fairest – Juliet Brooke

Thank You

Firstly, a huge thank you to the club and committee, but especially to Ronnie Calvert for his support with the girls football program, and Jan for his continued organisation of all the work around the club he does.

Secondly to all the parents for the great environment that they have contributed to, the volunteering throughout the year, and the trust provided to myself and Jo to look after your daughters. Huge thank you to the runners/trainers and also to Anna who was a fantastic TM for Jo and I. Lastly thanks to all the girls who endured a difficult season but throughout the year committed to our values, stuck together as a team and made it so much fun to spend time with them on Fridays and Sundays.



U12 GNATT

It was a truly rewarding season for U12 Gnatts marked by significant development across the entire playing group and many memorable wins, culminating in making finals. The group was newly formed with many having not played together including boys new to the club, but quickly forming a tight-knit group. It didn't take long for the boys and opposition teams to work out that the team was rich with talent and importantly played together extremely well with unexpected (to some) grading wins to place the team in Division 1. A hallmark early on in grading games was the consistent performance of the team across every line and solid contributions which was on show against Banyule when the boys came from 3 goals down at half-time to hit the lead and then kick away in the last quarter against a ferocious wind to record an outstanding victory.

The team was greeted with weekly challenges with many of the Division 1 teams either "soft" or "hard" graded which made the 6 regular season wins and finishing 3rd on the ladder even more of achievement. 2 away wins at Banyule and a home victory against Ashburton Red were the best performances of the season with the boys taking on the game with creative ball movement using the wide open spaces, lots of run and carry, sharing the ball with players in better positions, hard contested footy, disciplined defence, and holding on when challenged at various stages. The team bowed out in week 1 of the finals to eventual grand finalists.

It was most pleasing to see many of the boys play multiple roles and in a variety of positions adapting well, learning a new craft and making real contributions to the team



Player Review:

Aadi Parikh Became a very reliable defender for us throughout the year by showing a toughness and reliability in one-on-one contests very consistently. Much loved team member.

Archer Krauskopf Team player who follows team rules and shows commitment to the team through great endeavour and an amazing ability to never give up.

Benjamin Perovic Showed great commitment to his footy this year and became a valued defender for us by showing he can have a strong aerial presence.

Campbell Gregory A key player all over the ground. High level of skill, a great mark and can run any player off their feet. Winner of the Best & Fairest award.

Casper Bell Became a mission critical midfielder with his great run, skilful lateral ball movement, pushing forward to kick important goals, and getting back to help defenders. Winner of the Most Courageous award.

Edward Gray Played the key role of full back and nullified the oppositions best forward. A smart player that gave his all.

Gabriel McGuinness Our most important defender at CHB regularly coming up against elite players and did a sterling defensive job, adding run off half-back to his repertoire



Harry Jamieson Big ruckman who dominated centre bounces to great effect and took many massive marks around the ground including a memorable pack mark up forward against Banyule which he duly converted.

Harry Rodski Great work in the middle both as a ball winner and as a defensive mid-fielder, with some excellent tagging jobs that were critical in wins.

Harry Savige Super talented footballer who can do just about everything on the field. Became a real leader of the group as we relied on Harry heavily through the year, and he always delivered when we needed him to. Winner of 2nd Best & Fairest award.

Henry Lundie Showed great commitment towards some difficult roles during the year, was persistent when given a task and showed a willingness to follow instructions.

Hunter Orchard Hard running and creative wingman who also got back to help the defenders. One of most committed in the team.

Jonah Brewster Our rock in the forward line. A very dangerous player with the footy and could snap a goal from any position.

Joshua Nichol A fantastic team player who shows enormous skill and speed. Can find the ball well while still defending a dangerous opponent for us. Winner of Best Team Player award.

Nicholas Androutsopoulos Defender turned forward with great impact. Straight at the ball and one of the most courageous players in the team.

Nicholas Valmorbida Consistent winner across half-forward, sets up many team goals and kicked plenty himself. Incredibly consistent, and a real team player.

Oliver Roche A great inclusion to the team and forward line. One of the most consistent kicks for goal in the league.

Olsen Gasson Great to see his evolution from back to forward. A true goal sneak.

Rodeen Ansari What a first year of football! The opposition could never catch Rodeen once he had space.

Sebastian Pepe We relied on Seb many times as a defender throughout the year, and many times he held our defence together through determination and composure.



Sebastian Warwick Settled in across half-forward to be a key lead up target, always competitive, and very dangerous near goal.

Teddy Farquharson Hard working, hard running, skilful and dependable midfielder and damaging when pushed forward. Winner of the 3rd Best & Fairest award

Toby Lines One of the best marks and forward in the league. A standout with our team rule of forward pressure.

William Bare Showed great speed and creativity during the year. Has some fantastic natural attributes which will help him to keep improving over the years to come.

William Lundie Showed plenty of skill and team discipline up forward hitting up leads with neat passes to set up goals

U12 HANGER

2024 has been a big season for the Under 12 Houndstooth Tailoring Hangers. We would like to thank Houndstooth Tailoring for their support this year. Although our results were mixed, the boys put their best efforts into every game we played, and we are so proud of all of them and our 2024 season.

Thanks to our dedicated Coach, Charles Hunt and Assistant Coach, Nick O'Brien, all the boys have grown in confidence and skill over the season. Two of our boys represented Victoria in the State School competition this year - well done Lachie O'Brien and Jayden Millie. Congratulations also to both Lachie O'Brien and Ollie Hunt who, at the time of writing, have both been invited to the YJFL Best & Fairest presentation, recognising votes received by the league.

Managing a footy team takes a village and we'd like to thank the permanent volunteers we had this year which made rostering of roles so much easier week to week. Special thanks go to Rhys Gilhome for his tireless support as Trainer and Mark Passador, our passionate Runner, as well as those that helped with training each week.



Player Review:

William Barnao Will has developed this year with his ability to listen intently and put practice into play from the instructions he is given. Pre-game rev ups in the change rooms nearly putting the coach out of a job.

Max Bayliss Max's athletic ability to get to the contest was a standout in his development this year.

Harrison Beech Congrats on your first goal this season. Harrison's quick acceleration and ability to mark the ball on the run often leaving the opposition for dead. Never afraid to get in there and smother the ball, running back and leading again.

Xavier Biggins Another impressive development to his footy this season.

Oscar Blennerhassett Oscar's improvement on his attack of the footy and the contest was a standout this season.

Archie Caesar-Fowler We had a flashing glimpse into Archie's quality football ability, hampered by injury.

Lawrence Cao Lawrence's first season of football, showed great skill and promise throughout the year.

Spencer Cattermole Spence had a great season with his pure attack for the ball with his no fear attitude when tackling a real improvement for the season.



James Collett Congratulations on your 50 Games. James' consistency this season with the ability to arrive at the right time with great marking and accurate disposal skills were incredible, very consistent.

Noah Gilhome Congratulations on 50 Games. Noah has great on ball attacking skills. His confidence and strong ability was huge this season in his development.

Oliver Grant Ollie has grown and developed this year to become an outstanding attacker on the ball.

Max Hagen Max has been one of the most consistent and honest players throughout the year. Max's development of his confidence and courage was a standout.

Oliver Hunt Another consistent year, developed his running game and overhead marking a highlight.

James Keating James' growing confidence and attack of the ball shone through this season.

Callum Lehmann Limited game time this season with soccer commitments, highlighted Cal's ability to change the game in 5 mins with his attack

Lachlan Lewin Congratulations on 50 Games. One of the most improved seasons from the squad. The last 3 games a real standout with his ruck work, his marking ability and impacting the score board.

Jayden Millie Team VIC representative, let his athletic ability shine through this year.

Lachlan O'Brien Best & Fairest Winner, Team VIC representative, cracking season for LOB his attack and decision making a standout.

Jack Passador Full forward for the year, his ability to read the play and position himself a huge development this season.

Frederick Rennex Freddie's team first approach to protecting the ball carrier was an amazing asset to the Hangers this year.

Rupert Rowler Congratulations on 50 Games, the stalwart in our defence throughout the season, another very consistent year.

Oliver Stenson Congratulations on 50 Games at the start of the season. Stenson was everywhere, on ball with his famous shepherding and his power running.

Samuel Stokes Go hard or go home attitude a real strength of Sam's, looking forward to his footy development throughout his career.

Hayden Vo Strong midfielder and attack of the ball with the ability to run out of danger a real strength.

Leo Zhang Back line dominator, ultimate professional.



U13 GIRLS

Team Managers Report

Another great year for this group of girls. They've grown in numbers and come together to form a wonderful bond that has grown both on and off the field; developing friendships, trust and respect with each other. Always laughing, always having fun and always giving it their best.

A special thanks to the families and supporters who were happy to lend a hand, whether it be as runner passing on the coaches messages, running the boundary, expertly waving the flags, manning the canteen or cooking a mean bbq. The volunteers were always forthcoming and happy to help this team every Sunday.

Thank you again to Annie Strauch and the team at Performance Medicine for sponsoring this group again. Your support means a lot.

Mardi McQueen



Coaches Report

The U13 girls had another fantastic and successful season. It was terrific to see skills and teamwork continue to improve, as well as the friendship and camaraderie amongst the girls. It was also great to see the standard of all teams in the competition take another step up to ensure every match was hard fought, and every win well earned.

We welcomed back all of our players from last year and Kiara, Estelle, Rosie Richards and Leila McKenzie-McHarg made their Gladiator debuts.

Particular highlights during the year included:

A win away at Surrey Park by 2 points on Mother's Day with Lucy Devine showing great determination in the last quarter and Mykala McCarthy (KK) calmly slotting a set shot from the pocket to put us ahead

A come from behind win against Fitzroy by 1 point, kicking 2 goals in the last quarter; and

An 8 point loss against eventual Premiers Kew Comets in the last round that was a seesawing battle where we could not have asked more from our girls.

We finished the home and away season with 9 wins and 5 losses and 3rd on the ladder with a very healthy percentage of 139%. We faced Fitzroy in an elimination final, having had some great battles with them during the year. Unfortunately, it was Fitzroy's day, but our girls did themselves and the Gladiators proud playing with great spirit as we had all year.

Our backline players were an absolute wall, conceding 1 goal or less in half of our games. The words used to describe their play included tenacious, resilient, reliable, selfless and teamwork. Congratulations on a great year to Jasmine Kent, Zahara Kitikhoun, Annie Oxley, Milla Skaro, Rosie Stephens, Kiara Ediriweera and Rosario Quintanilla.

Our midfielders never took a backward step and every team knew they were going to spend some time eating turf and chasing our tails when they came to play us. The words used to describe their play included touch, relentless, feared, muddy and creative. Congratulations on a great year to KK, Lucy, Maya McQueen, Estelle Lambert, Molly Strauch, Evie Brooke, Ebby Elshaug and Leah Karanikas

Our forwards were an excitement machine for us most Sundays, with amazing overhead marks, some great pack roving and elite defensive pressure we kicked 43 goals. The words used to describe their play included inspiring, courageous, accurate, inaccurate and joyful. Congratulations on a great year to Leila McKenzie-McHarg, Sienna Hewitt, Gigi Hay, Milla Harrison, Taylor Burnet, Rosie Richards, Matilda Joyes, Ella Vardy and Georgia Crawshay.



Awards

We celebrated particular players' contribution to the team with awards at the end of the year.

The Rising Star Award for the player who showed the most improvement during the year went to Estelle Lambert

The Gladiator Award for the player who consistently demonstrated a great attitude, supported her teammates, listened to her coaches and was always willing to have a go went to Jas Kent

Our Best and Fairest Player Award went to Evie Brooke, with Lucy Devine coming in second and Maya McQueen in third.

It was also terrific to celebrate 50 game milestones during the year for Evie, Lucy, KK, Matilda and Zahara.



U13 GNATT

This season started with the challenge of building a new team (formed by the merging of two teams) with new friendships and a developing team culture. At the beginning of the season, the boys were challenged to set individual goals with an emphasis on development and team cohesion. The boys created and signed up to a set of values and behaviours that helped guide them through the season.

Highlights this season included our FightMND Round with the generous support of the Batchelor family; and the Papunya program which saw kids from the Papunya community join our boys for a number of excursions, social events, and both social and competitive footy. We then had a great group of 7 boys (together with 7 U13 girls) travel to Papunya in July. It was an awesome experience for everyone involved and saw a number of friendships made with members of the Papunya community. Huge thanks to Paul Cooper for leading this fantastic initiative.

We had an impressive number of banners this season with ten boys celebrating their 50 game milestones. Congratulations to Krish, Riley, JB, Seb, Max, Saxon, Arthur, Eddie, Cooper and Ethan.

A huge thank you to our team sponsor, Renewable Solar, and to the parents who continually put their hand up to volunteer on match day. Their willingness to get involved and support the boys was fantastic, and makes a Team Manager's role so much easier!

A massive thank you to our coaches Josh and Nick who took on the challenge of unifying and developing the team this season. They have introduced the team to a new style of footy and have developed each individual and the team as a whole. I am looking forward to seeing the boys return next season to build on the learnings of this year and love their footy!



Coach's Report

The mighty Under 13 'Renewable Solar' Gnatt's kicked off pre-season in February for a gruelling 8 week run into round 1. These 8 weeks put ourselves in good stead for the season as Nick Luth (assistant coach) and myself got to know each individual player and work on strengths and weaknesses. The focus for this season was to develop a fun, inclusive, welcoming culture while developing footballing skills as a team and as individuals.

The playing group were asked to vote on who they viewed as the best leaders and captain for the team. This was completely player led and is a great attribute to those who participated in this exercise. Congratulations to Ed Barnaby (Captain) and Sam Tallis (Vice-Captain) who led us for the remainder of the season, voted by their peers. We also had 11 other players get a vote at least once, which shows there are natural leaders all around the team!

The boys were beyond excited to kick off their 2024 Glen Iris Gladiators campaign, introducing Gus Chamaux, Harry Griffin and Arthur O'Sullivan as additions to the club. While it took until round 5 to put ourselves on the winners list, the first 4 weeks were spent developing and implementing a new way of playing and game plan for the majority of the boys. We worked at playing an exciting brand of football that encourages players to take the game on, use leg speed and their skills to run the opposition off their feet. This needed an adjustment period for the team, but I'm super proud of their commitment and willingness to learn a new way of playing. This all came together in round 5 where we finally got on the winners list with a 73-19 victory against Banyule. This kick started our season and put the belief in the playing group.

Lawson Foley, Joe Ramasamy, Harry Griffin, Ed Barnaby were the engine room in the midfield for us. We identified the importance of winning the ball at stoppage and congestion, and these boys showed us they would get the better of their opponent when it came to winning the ball.



James Badr, Riley Warren and Krish Sellenger played one of the most important and selfless roles for our team. Running all day up and down the wing and often putting the team ahead of their own personal game.

Eddie O'Donnell and Hugh Macdonald toughed it out in the ruck all year, giving our midfield the best chance they could get. Tirelessly working to get to each contest and making an impact with their height and physicality.

Sam Tallis, Max Cooch, Mason George, Arthur O'Sullivan, Seb Collier, Cooper Oakhill, Ethan Dunn and Freddie Kenessey held the fort down back. The defenders focused on peeling off their direct opponent to put themselves in a more damaging position to intercept the ball higher up the ground. While this took some getting used to, these boys adapted really well and showed their defensive capability, taking intercept marks and holding the opposition to an average of 24.3 points per game.

Jett Cannon, Saxon Cooley, Harry Kenessey, Berk Dagil, Will Barrington, Vivaan Lakhatariya, Gus Chamaux, James Addison, Will Batchelor and Gus O'Collins were the goal scoring machine up forward. Our focus for the forward line was to work up the ground and help our midfielders and defenders when defending, then creating space in the forward line to kick goals. James Addison and Will Batchelor gave us plenty of options in the air, using height and physicality to crash packs and bring the ball to ground. When we had the ball in the ground in our forward line, it was just a matter of time before our forwards worked hard, locking the ball in and kicking goals.



Our season concluded finishing in 5th position winning 6 games and losing 6 games, just missing out on finals. Thank you to everyone who was involved this season and being part of the great 2024 campaign. I look forward to continuing being part of your footballing and life journeys!

Congratulations to Ed Barnaby who takes home the Best & Fairest and Lawson Foley and James Badr coming joint runners up. Krish Sellenger was named the most improved player, with hard work and determination to improve his individual game and benefit the team, well done Krish! Finally, Mason George won the coach's award, always putting the team first and taking on board coaches' instructions all year. Congratulations to Lawson Foley who was invited to the YJFL Presentation Day.

Special thank you to Elisa Failla for her above and beyond efforts as team manager. Organising fantastic team events, communicating game times, venues and training, working on the canteen at training each Wednesday. This season wouldn't have happened without her!

Well done to all Gladiators teams on another great year. I wish everyone a safe time away from the club and look forward to welcoming you all back next year.

Go glads!

Josh Bienert



U14 GIRLS

As we reflect on the incredible journey of the Glen Iris Gladiators Under 14's girls team, we are overwhelmed with pride and joy. This season will be etched in our memories forever, and we're honoured to have shared it with each and every one of you. From the outset, we knew we had a special group of girls, but their dedication, resilience, and passion for improvement exceeded our expectations.

Every week, they showed up with a hunger to learn, to grow, and to push themselves to new heights. Our losses were invaluable lessons, and the girls' response to adversity was a testament to their character. They chose to learn from their mistakes, to support each other, and to come back stronger.



And then came the grand final. What can we say? It was an unforgettable display of skill, determination, and teamwork. The girls played out of their skins, relentlessly attacking and defending against a formidable opponent, the Camberwell Sharks.

The final siren was a moment of pure elation, and we're so proud to have been a part of it. But this season was about more than just wins and losses. It was about growth, friendship, and developing their love of the game. We've watched our gladiators develop into confident, capable, and passionate young athletes, who are determined to improve each week and support their team mates.



To our Gladiators, thank you! Thank you for trusting us, for working hard, and for believing in yourselves. We feel so lucky to be your coaches and can't wait to see what's next for this incredible group! And to our amazing support team, we are so grateful! To Tom and Viva, our tireless team managers, CJ, our runner, Sarah and Victoria, our trainers and the countless other volunteers who give up their time each week, thank you! Your selflessness, expertise, and enthusiasm have been the backbone of our success this season. From half time oranges to organising game-day logistics, your contributions have allowed us to focus on what matters most - the girls' development and having fun! Your support doesn't go unnoticed, and we're so grateful to have you as part of our Gladiators family.

Congratulations, premiers!
Coaches – Steph & Maddy

- Best & Fairest:** Sofia Barnaby
- Runner Up Best & Fairest:** Liliana Perovic
- 3rd Best & Fairest:** Ava Coulton
- Rising Star:** Molly Griffiths
- Best Team Player:** Tabby Simkiss



U14 GNATT

Many moments of champagne footy from the U14 Gnatts even if there was not much success on the playing field. Playing in division 1B and dealing with a number of significant injuries to key players, the boys were always positive, and the team spirit remained strong even though their efforts did not translate to wins. The team was blessed with fantastic coaching from Luke Darcy and Tim Holt, and it was evident that each boy's football had improved over the course of the season.

Player profiles:

Oliver Barnao Ollie is a great success story who is playing at a remarkable high level for someone who is still so new to the game. A great natural competitor who played with real heart in every role we asked of him. Ollie has the potential to play at a really high level if he puts his mind to it. Well done on a great season!

Fraser Brownhill Fraser is an athletic and gifted footballer who always does everything asked of him. Regularly played as a rebounding defender, Fraser showed a fantastic ability to play in front of his opponent and win the footy for his team before using his deft skills to hit a teammate and send us forward. Fraser is also adept as a smart and elusive forward who could lead to space to set up shots on goal or pass to his teammates in a better position. Fraser's courage and defensive efforts across the season were outstanding and he was sorely missed with injury in the latter part of the year. A great year from Fraser.

Angus Collett a super consistent and highly skilled rebounding defender who took on some very big jobs for us over the year and executed them beautifully. Showed excellent improvement over the course of the year and played some of his best footy for the year as an inside midfielder for us showing his versatility. Another excellent year from Angus.



Ari Crawshay a hardworking, tall and athletic player who filled a variety of roles for us over the year. Ari performed at an excellent level both in attack where he provided as a tall mobile target for his teammates and in defence where his ability to beat his direct opponents one on one came to the fore. Unfortunately, his season was cut short by injury, and he was sorely missed by his teammates. We look forward to seeing his wonderful football ability and athleticism back on the park next year.

Matthew Dallalana a super athletic tall forward who played his best when he was let off the chain to play on instinct. Overcame a nasty early season injury to put together a great year of work highlighted by some strong contested marking, kicking bags of goals and even a few cameos in the ruck where his athleticism really came to the fore. Showed his ability in the big games too by being amongst our best in our Elimination Final.

Max Darcy a hard running and highly skillful midfielder who won plenty of possessions and then used the ball beautifully by foot to his teammates. Max showed some great versatility by playing very capably in defense and also when pushing forward to play as a dangerous hard leading forward who loved to hit the scoreboard. Max consistently performed at a very high level all season and capped off a great year by coming runner up in our B & F.

Freddy Elsom Freddy showed wonderful improvement across the year and became an important player for our group. Blessed with height Freddy started the year playing deep in the goal square where he showed a great ability to clunk some big marks and kick goals while also spending a bit of time in the ruck. As his work rate and running improved across the year he started to push further up the ground and present as a big strong forward for us - showcasing his much-improved contested marking and ground ball contests. Freddy continued to progress to the point whereby the end of the year he was our starting ruckman who spent a bit of time forward. Great to see you develop like that big boy – keep it up!!

Max Holt Max had an outstanding season with the Gladiators and was a deserving runner up in the B & F. A very capable and consistent goal kicker who had a really positive impact for the team week in week out. Was one of the most improved players across the season. Max has a great attitude, is an outstanding young man who has a bright future ahead in everything he does.



Monty Hotchin an extremely hard-working player with a selfless, team first attitude who consistently rolled up his sleeves to do the hard work. A very hard two-way runner with lovely skills, Monty did a lot of his best work at the bottom of the packs for us. Monty generally gave up some size to his opponents but despite this was one of our best tacklers for the year and set the standard for the team with his inspirational defensive efforts.

Charlie Houghton Chuckie is a brilliant young man who lights up the team with his big smile. A coach's favourite on the back of him giving everything he has and playing any role to help the team. We all felt deeply for the incredibly challenging year health wise that Chuckie had to battle through and loved seeing him back supporting the boys late in the season. Capable of being an outstanding AFL player. Look forward to seeing him healthy and ready for season 2025.

Tom Hunt new to the Gladiators this year Tom fit in seamlessly and proved to be a pillar of our defense. A hard-nosed, tough and gritty defender Tom took on some big roles for us this year and did an exceptional job. Tom was at his best when he backed himself in with his excellent intercept marking ability and when leading his opponent to the footy across the half back line before driving the ball forward as a lovely rebounding defender. At times we also threw him into the center square as a big bodied inside mid and he showed he was very capable in there too. A wonderful debut year.

Mack Jaski Mack was another of the big improvers in our team this season. Played some super strong, competitive roles mainly as a key backman. Awesome to see his confidence grow as he handled some big bodied opponents for the team regularly. A pleasure to coach, always striving to get better.

Maxy Krauskopf a speedy, skillful and hard running player who played a variety of roles for us across the year. Maxy showed a great ability to perform well whatever the role, be it out on the wing winning kicks, locking down on a small forward as a defender or as a livewire forward who consistently kicked goals and shared the ball with team mates to finished off his good work. Maxy showed constant improvement across the year and played at a high-level right across the season.

Josh Lindeman Josh is a fantastic young lad who loves to play. An awesome competitor and tackler who makes his teammates walk a little bit taller. Great credit to Josh for the way he handled a challenging year that was hampered by ongoing soreness and injury. Can't wait to see Josh, fit and firing and back to his best next season.



Alby Mahony Alby showed a great ability to use his running strength to help the team on the wing. He has great natural skill and an ability to read the play that will help him enormously as he grows into his body in the coming years.

Will Nguyen Will is tough defender who was regularly asked to lock down on one of the opposition's dangerous forwards. Rarely beaten by his direct opponent, it was common to see Will win the ball back for the team in deepest defence.

Marcus Oh a highly skilled, hardworking, versatile and very creative player who had an excellent year all up. A deserving winner of the B & F, Marcus was a player we could always rely on to do a variety of jobs for us - whether it be holding down a key defensive post or as an attacking high possession midfielder. Snuck forward to kick a few goals for the year too. Great work Marcus.

Lyon Paulusz Lyon has a wonderful natural ability to play AFL footy. An innate ability to read the play and use his body well when needed. He looked very comfortable playing as a key forward, kicking goals regularly. When Lyon puts his mind to it, he has the ability to be one of the best players in the competition



Tommy Seymour Tommy is the most enthusiastic and passionate member of our team. Love his loud voice at training, always supporting his mates and driving the team to be its best. He has great natural speed and running ability that is an important part of helping him be the player he wants to be. As Tommy grows and develops in the coming years, he will be a strong player at any level.

Bruno Strazdins big Bruno was another new recruit to the Gladiators this year and had a wonderful debut campaign. Bruno is a tall and strong player who played some excellent footy at both ends of the park for us. Bruno showed his ability as a key forward with his strong leading and excellent body work allowing him to take marks in the forward 50 and kick goals for us. Bruno also went back to play the role of key defender several times and showed a wonderful ability to consistently beat his bigger opponents. An excellent year from Bruno and an even better addition to our team.

Eddie Williams Eddie was close to our biggest improver this season. Took his intercept marking and defensive game to a whole new level. Eddie competing hard and backing himself in to fly for his marks is an awesome sight that inspires his teammates. Eddie is a much-loved part of the team who gives his heart and soul every week.

U14 WINNETT

It was a successful season for the U14 Winnett's in the 2024 YJFL Season. Over the course of the year the Gladiator Spirit was shown throughout, and standards were accurately met. We started the year off with some difficult and challenging fixtures. This was time for the team and coaches to gel as it was our first-year coaching and first year for some of the boys to play with each other. This created a few weeks to build chemistry and understanding as a team.

During the middle of the season an impressive run of 3 wins in a row started a season to remember as after some troubling yet hard fought wins, the boys found themselves on the path to a top 4 finish. This achievement should forever be remembered among these boys as one of the most impressive feats of their junior footy career as for all of them this was their first ever finals game. Providing this early experience adds skills and development which can assist future life and footy ability.

The finals series was ended short with a tough loss away yet overall, this season should be looked at with many positives including a good brand of footy.

There were a few difficult stages of the year especially with struggling with numbers at various parts of the season, yet we believe every boy should be proud of what they accomplished and made happen during the 2024 year.

Well done to all the Winnett Boys and Go Glads!



Bryan Cao Bryan was very handy for our team as he offers versatility. Playing impactful midfield, forward and even ruck minutes contributed immensely to the team. It was very special to see Bryan turn nothing into something with his playmaking abilities and ability to take pack marks.

Xavier Chain Xavier lead our team in the forward line with his pressure. His linkup with other small forwards created our mosquito fleet which would apply pressure and force turnovers. It was good to see reward for his effort in the forward line.

Winston Chen Winston is one of the quickest guys we have ever met. His speed out of the middle added some pace and quickness to our footy play style. The midfield minutes he played created a number of quick paced passages through the middle which always ended up in goals.

Harry Cook A true leader of the backline who would love to push up and create plays through the middle. His communication with his fellow backline created order and structure when needed. His physicality was awesome to see as he uses his body to tackle and bump others off the ball.

Lachlan Foster Another member of our mosquito fleet who added pressure. His skills developed throughout the year as he got more comfortable around the footy. When available, Lachlan could harm teams with his kicking and all-around skills with the footy.

Louis Holuigue Louis is one of the sparks that make this team. His energy and passion for the game drive his talent to help the team. It was awesome to see Louis kick a number of goals and to see his celebrations.

Will Howitt After a few games we figured Will's position out. Down back he adds incredible amounts of physicality to our style and is one of the protectors of the boys if in need to help. Tackling and his effort really stand out as a pure defender who stops players from getting the ball.

Will Jones A pleasure to coach without any back chat as he does what is told and follows orders well. A versatile on baller who can play some half back that has amazing skills with his kicking and his brilliant footy IQ knows he can read the game well. When you need someone to do a job for you, call Will Jones.

Zac Jones Ziggy's run with the footy was incredible to watch. He would run circles around everyone at training as he loved to take on everyone. His rucking shows clear dedication to the craft as he wins almost every tap. The athleticism was shown on full display any game Zac would play.

Tom Park TP loves footy. Every time we saw him, he has a grin on his face knowing that he's going to be kicking a ball. Every stoppage in games, somehow TP found himself at the bottom of the pack. He may be one of the smaller boys on the field but his aggression and ability to tackle and recover the footy serve as a skill for him to hold onto for future footy.



Monty Peat Although we didn't get to see much of Monty due to injury, what we did get to see was pure cinema. His physicality in the backline and in some stages the midfield, show his development as a player. His athleticism and frame were used to generate stoppages and create defensive support which is a vital role for the team.

Sam Perry He found incredible form towards the end of the year by saving the team many goals throughout. His 1v1 ability impressed us as a goal saving talent even as he took on 3v1s and came out successful. His development over the year was a sight to see as he found himself to be one of our best defenders at the end.

Sam Price Sam was another boy who was a pleasure to coach, always following instructions and always reliable down back. His taller frame allowed him to be a feared opponent for opposition forwards and provided great physicality in the contest throughout the entire year even having a few spells in the ruck when the team was under manned.

Archer Reid Arch played a pivotal role in the team's defence and was always switched on at games and training. It was a joy having a boy who could listen to instructions so well and implement them seamlessly into the game. Arch's footy knowledge is exceptional and was evident on game day with his exceptional footy and playmaking skills.

Charlie Spear Starting out in our back line we quickly learned that Charlie was a destined forward. This was shown to us with him kicking the most goals out of anyone in the team, including some miraculous goals out of the pack that came out of nowhere, seemingly always managing to keep us in the game.

Elijah Vujovich Mr consistent. Week in week out you could always count on Elijah performing on game day. Elijah displayed incredible skills well above his years as a footballer with one of the best kicks in the team, playing predominantly on the wing and in the midfield his speed, decision making, and skills made him a weapon on the field and a pleasure to coach.

Zac Warwick Zac's skills and leadership really progressed throughout the year and as coaches were really impressed with him taking initiative in warmups and standing up as a real team player. Zac who loved a goal and a good celebration was forced into playing ruck for the latter half of the season and really stepped up for us helping us out in his non preferred position all whilst polling an impressive number of goals for the season.

Josh De Guio Josh was one of those kids who just got it done. Whether it was getting the hard balls in the middle or playing as a spare behind the ball Josh was so versatile in his skillset and excellent at implementing play making into the game. His impressive skills and smarts were some of the most impressive things about this boy, leading a great future ahead for his football.

Erol Haksov Despite being one of the smallest players in the lineup Erol's hunt and desire for the footy was incredible. As the season went on Erol just kept getting better and better playing increased minutes in the midfield as he announced himself as a real asset to this team. Erol's joyous attitude to footy made him a real team lifter and a pleasure to be able to coach.

Hugo Broadbent Unfortunately, we didn't get to see Hugo as much as we had hoped for with him only playing a handful of games for us. However, in those games Hugo provided some much-needed physicality and speed to the contest laying some impressive tackles and bumps on opposition players. His aggression at the ball was a marvel to watch and a fantastic attribute to have.



U15 GNATT

The Under 15 Glen Iris boys had a phenomenal turnaround season in 2024, bouncing back from previous struggles to deliver a string of impressive performances. Fuelled by hard work, skill development, and teamwork, they consistently outperformed opponents, showing resilience and adaptability on the field. Each player contributed, stepping up in crucial moments and elevating their game.

The season culminated in a well-deserved premiership victory, a testament to their dedication and growth as a team. It was a season to remember, marked by remarkable progress and capped with the ultimate reward: a premiership win.



Player Review

Jack Satterley Jack is a constant force, always keeping opposition defences on edge. His courage and smart play set him apart, and once he spots a scoring opportunity, he's virtually unstoppable.

Angus Beechey Angus has made remarkable strides this year. A stalwart in defence, his competitive spirit ensures he either wins or neutralises every contest.

Tom Barnett Tom's confidence grew immensely over the season, especially in the final weeks. His knack for finding space makes him an invaluable asset to the team.

James Coughlan James stood out with his relentless work ethic this season. Always running back to support defence, his steady ball control makes him a reliable presence on the field.

Austin Lambart Austin's work rate is top-notch. He's always the first to defend and then leads the forward charge. His courage and relentless tackling make him a key player.

Benny Nichol Ben is the ultimate ball-winner, always amassing possessions. His game sense and efficiency at ground level make him incredibly effective.

Sacha Demetriou Sacha had an impressive season, showing growth in his athleticism. His preseason hard work paid off as he consistently ranked among the top ball-winners.

Ethan Herbert Ethan's athleticism and powerful running make him a standout. Once he's ahead, few can catch him. He's developed into a dynamic midfielder with promising potential.

Max Johnston Max's improvement was evident, especially in the last few games. His unselfish play, prioritising teammates, demonstrated his team-first mentality.

Fergus O'Connor Fergus brings an infectious positivity that lifts the team, even in tough times. His attitude is refreshing, and his skills improved steadily over the year.

Sam Hewitt Sam made great progress as a key defender. His competitive nature in shutting down opponents was impressive, contributing to an outstanding season despite a few injuries.

Tom Pierce As a new addition, Tom brought composure and vision to the team. His foresight in reading the game transformed our ball movement and angle of attack.

George Barnaby George's shift to midfield added depth to his game. He's the ultimate team player, doing the hard defensive work that allows fellow midfielders to be more aggressive.

Rupert McCann Rupert's team-first attitude is admirable, though he's sometimes cautious about mistakes. His left-foot kicking was a standout, consistently breaking through defences.

Ollie Cooper New from Mildura, Ollie has impressive talent yet to be fully realised. His aerial and ground skills are highlights of his game.



Jai Van Den Borne Another new addition from Sydney, Jai made an immediate impact. His skill and smooth kicking style allowed him to seamlessly integrate into the team.

Tynan Ediriweera Tynan has shown great improvement, never backing down from a contest and filling gaps where the team needs him. His reliability on the field is invaluable.

Flynn Adler Flynn's bravery and intensity set the tone for the team. His resurgence over the season saw him cover ground and deliver game-changing performances.

Tom Burrell Known as "The General," Tom had a strong year in defence, directing the backline and allowing others to attack freely. Coaching Tom has been a pleasure, and his presence will be missed as he wraps up his time at Glen Iris.

Tom Brownell Having Tom all season was a huge boost. His versatility and powerful kicking made a big impact across all areas of the game.

Alby Elsom Alby's athleticism is outstanding. Every touch brings something special, consistently opening up the field with his creative play.

Lachie O'Halloran Lachie had a solid season, stepping up to fill the defence void left by George. His strength and power were impressive, especially as he plays in an older age group.

Paddy Benson When Paddy's confidence is high, he's unstoppable. His transition to an inside midfield role led to a standout season, and as he believes more in himself, his impact will only grow.



Henry Searby is a true team-first player, known for winning or drawing crucial contests when it mattered most. His ability to step up in pivotal moments made a significant impact throughout the season.

Tom Schubert brought energy and enthusiasm to the team, making an immediate and positive impact. His presence on and off the field elevated the group's spirit and performance.

Evan Hoolihan is incredibly fast and a key goal scorer for the team, consistently using his speed to create scoring opportunities and make a big impact in games.

Josh Baker transitioned seamlessly from soccer to AFL, bringing craftiness and clever play to the game. His adaptability and skill made him a valuable addition to the team.

James Humphery-Smith was an absolute pleasure to coach—completely selfless and dedicated to the team. It was a real disappointment for him to miss out on Grand Final day due to illness.



U16 NEWTON

Well what a year it turned out to be for the Ashy Glads U16s in 2024. The 'Ashy Glads' as the boys will forever remember themselves, was born from the need to continue giving players from both clubs the opportunity to continue their competitive football progression.

In late 2023, the Presidents of Ashburton Red Backs and the Glen Iris Gladiators, Dan Prior and Dave Barnaby got together with the blessing of their respective committees, to initiate a new concept and approach and combine the under 16 teams.

This idea was not without risk as nobody could quite predict the level of buy in by players and parents, and if a merged team would survive this innovation, but decided the benefits would be worth the risk.

Any doubts about the levels of enthusiasm we're quickly dispelled when over the last weeks of the school holidays of 2023 I gathered the boys to early pre season Sunday sessions, to get to know one another and begin our assessment of the players.

The original intention was to have one merged team and to then revert to a second standalone team for each club. The numbers soon dictated that the best way forward was to form 2 merged teams, the Ashy Glads A and B team.

These first sessions on some pretty warm February Sundays were very well attended, and the players didn't take long to begin getting to know each other, the start of the bonds that carried strong through the year.



I was fortunate to have the unwavering support right from the start of Chris Murray, who took on the role of assistant coach, bringing years of footy experience and a passion that no doubt positively influenced the players and our results.

In February we had a first proper hitout practice match in Williamstown, where we got our first look at our newly formed teams. We dominated across the ground and we knew then we had talent and work ethic, and the players all sensed it as well.

It was this day that I met Joe Cincotta, who had been named as the B Team coach, and the idea of merged teams was already forming into an exciting reality.

We had decided that given the players age, and the fact that we were a merged team it was best to have our own space away from both clubs so that we could form our own identity in our own space. T.H king Oval in Glen iris became the home of the Ashy Glads U16s for 2024. Our dual captains Josh Murray and Ollie Condon along with vice captains Oscar Ormsby and Sam Mellor, led the team into the first four grading rounds. The league placed the A Team into Division 2 and the B Team into division 4.

Division 2 saw us in a competitive grade and each week our players continued to rise to the occasion. As the season progressed it was a three-way competition between ourselves, the Kew comets and the Kew Rovers. The Comets proved to be our nemesis throughout the year with most clashes being close results and hard fought, and as the year progressed we continued to believe in our ability to rise.





With the majority of our players playing school footy on Saturday's and then backing up with our matches on Sundays, the fatigue on the players and our absence of depth with playing numbers tested everyone, and the true colours of the team shone through. This group that came together had forged into a team that played for each other, achieving a goal we set for ourselves at the start of the season – to play finals footy.

Winning the first final and then the preliminary put us into the Grand Final, however with several key players injured, the day was not to be ours.

For me, 2024 gave us the highs and lows of footy that builds character. The players made memories they take with them forever, by contributing and belonging to a team who were intentionally tough and relentlessly hardworking. The players exceeded expectations and became a team that proved to be greater than the sum of its parts.

Go Ashy Glads!

Rob Ormsby
2024 Ashy Glads 'A' Team Coach

U16 GLEN IRIS - ASHY 2

The 2024 season for Ashburton Glen Iris was a remarkable journey of growth, hard work, and ultimately grand final success. Here's a look back at how the team's incredible season unfolded:

The season began with a period of adjustment as two teams merged into one. The boys faced the challenge of getting to know each other's playing styles and building cohesion on the field. This initial phase saw the team developing an understanding on how to play with one another, resulting in a 2-2 record after the grading phase.

Despite a shaky start, the team found their feet and went on an impressive five-game winning streak. This included standout victories against Fitzroy and Templestowe, teams that had previously defeated them easily during grading. This remarkable turnaround propelled the boys to the top of the ladder, claiming the first spot and showcasing they were a legitimate premiership contender.



The momentum faced a setback during the school holidays as player availability issues led to two heavy losses. These defeats placed the team on the brink of missing the finals, creating a critical moment in the season.

In a season-defining match, the team rallied to secure a crucial victory against Balwyn. This win was followed by two more victories, which allowed the team to narrowly secure the second spot on the ladder. The boys' determination and resilience were evident as they prepared for the finals.



In the qualifying final, the boys were primed for a rematch against Templestowe away from home. The team delivered an impressive performance, showcasing their attacking prowess and transitional play, which caught Templestowe off guard. This dominant win secured their place in the grand final and earned them a well-deserved week off to prepare.

The grand final saw a rematch against Templestowe, who had defeated Balwyn in the preliminary final. The weather conditions forced a change in strategy, shifting the focus to contested ball. The game was a tight and thrilling contest, with many players stepping up and making key contributions. In a nail-biting finish, the boys emerged victorious by six points, sealing their place as premiers.



This season was a testament to the team's ability to adapt, work incredibly hard, and perform under pressure. From a slow start to a grand final victory, the boys proved their mettle and earned their place as the best team of the season. Congratulations to all the players, parents, and helpers for a truly unforgettable year.



YOUTH GIRLS

Coaches Report

What a season! Our first year coaching the 'AshyGlads' was an absolute joy, filled with fun, growth, and unforgettable moments. From the very first training session to the final siren of the preliminary final, we were blown away by the determination and passion every single one of the girls brought to the field.

Week after week, we watched the girls improve beyond expectations...whether it was in their skills, game awareness, or teamwork. They pushed themselves, supported each other, and tackled every challenge head-on. Their willingness to learn and their positive attitudes made our first year of coaching an incredible experience for us, and we couldn't have asked for a better group.

Making it to the preliminary final was an incredible achievement and again exceeded our expectations and we are beyond proud of how well the team performed throughout the season. Their hard work, resilience, and never-give-up attitude shone through every game. We're so excited to see what this team can achieve next year and beyond!

Congrats on an amazing season to the 'AshyGlads'.

Shelby & Meg



Team Manager Report

What an amazing success the 2024 season turned out to be for the merged Youth Girls team between Glen Iris and Ashburton or the "AshyGlads" as the girls called themselves. As we approached round 1 with squads of 18 and 12 players both clubs realised that a merger made a lot of sense to ensure strong numbers throughout the season.

Having appointed Shelby Knoll (Richmond AFLW) and Meg Ginnivan (St Kilda VFLW) coaching duo to lead the team, we were extremely optimistic about creating a positive environment, where the girls would learn, grow in confidence and develop their football.

The players were brought together for the first time 5 days before the start of the season with a training session, pizza night and jumper presentation. With a room full of nervous players and parents and sensational Teo's pizza, after a few awkward moments (including some very small jumpers), the ice was broken, friendships made, and a unified team was formed.

As the season got going grading matches showed we were competitive with most teams, but not competitive with the 4 top teams, who were a class above. Being eventually graded in Div 2 was very constructive as it allowed Shelby & Meg to actively manage our rotations in games to give every player a fair amount of time on the field and remain really competitive in every game.

The girls finished the home and away games in 4th position and had two sensational finals wins, which were celebrated with gusto. Bowing out in the preliminary final, while not a fairytale ending was a terrific achievement from the girls and those come from behind finals victories were stirring and made us all very proud.



Thankyou

Shelby Amazing coach. Amazing job in your first year. Special person. Your leadership qualities are first rate. You have taught the kids so much and developed their confidence and football smarts.

Meg our Assistant Coach. Teacher and nurturer. Your maturity and connection with the girls was amazing to see develop.

Nat Hickcox our Runner. Passionate, dedicated & incredibly supportive. Nat had coached the Ashy girls since U10 & his knowledge and input was crucial to making the merged team work. 2024 was a new role as runner and he embraced it with passion.

Darryn Simcox our Trainer. Your care and commitment was first rate. Taping fingers and ankles pre-match, managing head knocks and broken fingers and looking after the girls wellbeing.

Parent volunteers particularly Mario Bisinella & Rob Monaco – for always volunteering to do boundary umpire duties, Ralph Horowitz for goal umpiring, James Barratt and Viva Simkiss for filling in as Team Manager, Colin Lillywhite who filled in for jobs throughout the year and all the parents for their support.

Toni Lillywhite for organising the end of year vote count and celebrations. It was a wonderful way to end the season.



Milestone Games

Ava Lilywhite: 50 games (Ashy)

Scarlett Dulmanis: 50 games (Ashy)

Emma Bradshaw: 50 games (Ashy)

Claudia Graham: 50 games (Glads)

Charlotte Tadgell: 50 games (Glads)

Ivy Cockerell: 100 games (Glads)

Awards & Achievements

Best & Fairest Award: Emma Bradshaw

Runner up Best & Fairest: Emma Johnston

Most Consistent: Inez Bongso

Best Team Player: Ava Lilywhite

Rising Star: Maddie McDonald

Most Determined: Sophie Barratt

Best Finals Player: Sophie Pont

YJFL Team of the Year: Emma Bradshaw, Ava Lilywhite & Maddie McDonald

