

SEASON 2023 - ROUND 6

PANTHER CUBS NEWS

Official newsletter of Eltham Junior Football Club



Contents:

Presidents Report

What's on this season - Social Events

Coaches Match Reports - ROUND 6

Feed your family - recipe idea

Our Fabulous Sponsors



PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Jodi Mitchell

Hello Members,

On Saturday we saw our U9s playing a grid game at half time in the Seniors. The players had a great time! Thank you to our U9 Age group Coordinator Matty for taking time out to organise the game. Also thank you to all the volunteers that helped facilitate the game along with lunch afterwards.

Some of our U14s spent some time being welcomed into the inner sanctum of the Seniors pre-match warm up on Saturday. The boys had an amazing experience, and it was great for them to see what happens on match day for the Seniors. A big thank you to the Seniors Vice President John Rudden and the Senior playing group for the opportunity and for making the boys feel part of the team.

Just a few housekeeping reminders to all parents and carers:

1. We realise that the boundary line is smaller in U9 and U10 games, however there is to be NO access to Central or Susan street when these games are being played. Parents and spectators are to remind behind the fence at Central and the second line at Susan street just like they do in all other age groups. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Please make sure your children do not leave valuables in their bags on game day. We cannot control who has access to the rooms. When you are playing away, make sure your children are putting all belongings in their bags and not leaving them sitting on top or beside bags. Other teams use the rooms, and each club has a different level of respect for other people's property.

A special mention to Matt and Harvie from our U15 Black team who have just been announced in the SSV 15 and Under state team. A terrific achievement and we wish the boys all the very best.

On Wednesday 31st May EJFC will be hosting two NFNL U14 rep games. The first game is kicking off at 5.45pm and we welcome all members down to watch some great footy. The canteen will be open, and the coffee man will be there. Hope to see some of you done there!

Best of luck to all teams for round 7!

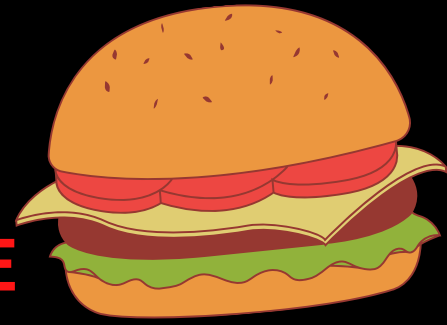
Go Panthers!

Kind regards,
Jodi Mitchell
EJFC President

WHAT'S ON THIS SEASON - SAVE THE DATE
Being part of a footy club is more than just going to footy games it's a community that comes together to socialise and have fun..

Social Events 2023

**Sunday night free
family dinners - ALL WELCOME**



Sun 4th June from 5.30pm

Sun 30th July from 5.30pm

**Other Grown up events
book a babysitter now!**

Fri 16th June Sports Night

Sat 22nd July - 80's night

*Start thinking about
your costumes*



All Abilities match report

This round we came up against Ferntree Gully away from home. It was a beautiful morning with the dandenong ranges in the background.

We had two first gamers Vin and Jamie. Both tried very hard and got better as the game went on.

It was a very evenly matched contest right from the get go with both teams having plenty of opportunities to score. Lachie was outstanding playing full back when the heat was on. Marzy, Jace and Jye were running non stop covering the whole ground. We rotated Lachie into the midfield and he did not disappoint. We were struggling getting the ball out of defence so we moved Jye to half forward which was a great move.

We tried Brain in the ruck which was a positive move because it got his confidence up and marzy could rove to him.

Last training session we worked really hard on tackling and you could see the improvement in this area. Joe and Jamie were out standing tackling guys twice their size!

Goal Rylan, Ryan, Jace, Jye

EJFC SPORTSMAN NIGHT

TICKETS NOW
ON SALE!!

SPECIAL GUESTS:
BRENDAN FEVOLA
GLEN ARHCER

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE @ 7PM
\$120 TICKETS

- UNLIMITED BEER, WINE & SOFT DRINKS
- BUFFET DINNER 'FRANCO & CO'
- LIVE AUCTION
- LIMITED TO 100 TICKETS



*This event is suitable for 18 years and over.



TICKETS SELLING FAST
GET IN QUICK!

elthamjfc.com.au/product/ejfc-sportsmans-night-2023/

U9's match reports

Under 9 Red Eltham vs Eltham Black

The derby at Susan Street was a much-anticipated match between Eltham Red & Black.

When the teams arrived, it was very muddy under foot, however, this only added to the spectacle. With Leo D our fearless captain for the day, we knew it was going to be a good game. Our focus for the day was head over the ball and to concentrate on just that moment, our lads did it for the full four quarters.

When in defence Hudson T, Cooper K and Josh O covered their opponents like a cheap suit which really set up some good plays. Charlie N played his best footy down back with some strong, telling marks. He thoroughly deserved the opposition spirit award.

All this allowing Josh B, Tyler R and Zac W to get a lot of ball through the mid when able, and give good opportunity to our forwards.

Thomas S was lively up forward and is learning to get to the right spots, he managed to kick a goal. Archie L was fantastic when up forward kicking two himself. And the opposition found him difficult to man up on.

After two weeks of constant improvement, Marcus P kicked 3 and has shown his capability in all positions on the ground. Big Max M moved around the ground nicely and also kicked two ripper goals.

The coaches have been teaching the boys about the term 'hunting the ball', making sure its your singular focus when it's your turn. Jude W was fantastic in keeping his head over the ball along with Mason P who showed a great four quarter game including bringing team mates into the game through his brilliant passing. Mason won our spirit award.

Overall, both teams had fun playing their mates and playing fairly. We are looking forward to another game full of improvement and fun.



Under 9 White Eltham vs Montmorency

The round 6 match-up saw Eltham host the Montmorency Pies at home at Panther Place. The game plan focussed on teamwork – specifically kicking to a leading teammate in space, and linking up with teammates through quick handballs. To reward teamwork, a prize of a McDonalds voucher was promised to the player who picked up the most of his teammates from off the ground, and contributed the most tackles ! Chris & Zach were named co-Captains for the match.

The boys got off to a great start through some excellent ruck & centre work from Taylor. Zach was active early winning an important kick in the back-line. Louis had a great first quarter laying 2 quick tackles in succession. Carter started explosively, running off the back-line and finding Sam for a fine mark and his first of 2 goals for the quarter.

In the second quarter, Jude and Luca combined brilliantly in the forward line that would have resulted in a sensational goal save for a desperate, diving save from the Montmorency defender. Will ran down a defender for a hard tackle. Sam unselfishly found Ollie on his own in front of goal. Asher took a strong mark against 3 Montmorency defenders, deep in the forward zone.

In the third quarter, Kingston emerged with his best form of the season, winning a couple of kicks across the ground. Angus fought threw a number of tackles before finding Chris for a quick handball. Austin kickstarted a great chain of football, finding Isaac who in turn found Axel with a long kick as the team moved the ball from one end of the ground to the other.

In the final quarter, Darcy won a hardball gather and clearance; River continued his good form with numerous possessions. Axel was dominant in the centre, winning valuable clearances and finding Sam for the final goal of the day.

All up it was a great team performance, most impressive was the boys' unselfish play. Axel won the coveted "Spirit of Montmorency Award" from the opposition after a strong performance. Kingston won the Eltham "best on ground" for his great teamwork in the third quarter.

The McDonalds vouchers were won by Louis and Darcy for their dedication and hard competition throughout the day. Thanks to Zach & Chris for their leadership and all the parents for their support.



U9's match reports

GO TEAM!

Under 9 Grey Eltham vs Montmorency

Another early rise on Sunday saw the mighty Grey boys take on Montmorency. Toby P was our captain for the day and won the toss to see us kicking towards the grandstand in the first quarter. It was clear from the outset that Montmorency had quite a few players that had played multiple seasons as they pinpointed Marks and kicks and handballs while trying to get on top of our boys. One of our main objectives for the day was to break one tackle and kick the ball long, which the boys executed well. This along with the basics of manning up, chase, and run run run kept the pressure on Montmorency all day. Tyler was standing tall all over the ground taking every high ball that came his way. Ari received the Montmorency award for doing his usual in and under work and crumbing everything that came near him. Max G and Ben O received joint Panther awards for nice skills and hard ball gets. Although we were up against it for most of the day yet again the boys did not stop trying. They kept their heads down and did what was instructed. Their fantastic positive attitude enabled them to finish the game off in ripping fashion and hold their own against very good opposition. There were some fantastic efforts across the ground: Sam M and Aces fears tackling all day. Cooper Trenton Isaac, Liam and Jack never giving in and creating a contest at every opportunity, Toby H and Charlie W hitting every contest at full pace and breaking free and driving the ball long, along with Coen and Massimo drawing multiple opposition at their individual contests letting our boys run onto it. Over all it was a fantastic effort. The opposition coach commented we were the toughest opposition they have had this year. I was super proud of the way we went about it and just the our never give in attitude. Well done boys.

Luke G

Under 9 Black Eltham vs Eltham Red

We headed into the 'derby' clash against Eltham Red coming off a brilliant training session on Friday night. Perfect preparation for the big game. Rory and Liam were our captains and led by example all day. It was a tough start with Eltham Red bouncing out of the blocks with fast ball movement and precision kicking. We slowly settled into the game with midfield dynamos Jedd and Jeremy flexing their muscles and laying some big tackles. The backs were under pressure - Lachlan, Rory and Josh A responded with some close defending. Xavier was on fire with a great mark and then a shot on goal that just missed.

The second quarter was another tough slog - to our credit we dug in with some great defensive efforts from Charlie, Ethan and Henry. While it was a dominant quarter by Eltham Red, our backline led by Liam and Jarrod held up well.

The third quarter was like a different game - the midfield combination was electrifying with Charlie, Liam and Connor moving the ball effortlessly. Liam's long handpassing and precision kicking enabled Lachlan to cut loose. He was everywhere and combined with Oscar on three occasions to set up scoring opportunities. Josh A marked well and had a shot on goal that just missed. We were peppering the goals without any reward. Riley looked dangerous and was competing well while Jedd was a tackling machine. We had some momentum but just couldn't convert our chances.

The last quarter started with Jedd and Jeremy placing pressure on the opposition which resulted in turnovers. Alexander and Ethan were getting first to the ball and our backline pressure from the likes of Lachlan, Oscar and Josh J was relentless. Jeremy continued with his attack on the ball and demonstrated on several occasions his ability to win the contest.

Oscar was rewarded for his great game by receiving the panther medal from Eltham Red while Xavier was given our player of the match for his marking and shot on goal. Connor received an award for his determination and tackling pressure. Thanks also to Henry and Josh J for playing a quarter for Eltham Red.



GOAL!

U10's match reports

Under 10's Red Eltham vs Mernda Blue

The Eltham Red U/10 Boys team played host at the Central Park oval against the Mernda Blue team on what was a day of four seasons.

Captains Alex S and Jake P took the warmup stretches and after some early morning exercises the boys went out and won the toss and kicked to the Alistair Knox Park end.

The first quarter set up the scene for the game with some close checking footy and tight in and under contests. Kashen K was doing plenty of hard work early finding himself at the bottom of a lot of packs as the conditions were making it difficult to play some clean footy.

Great team play from Isaiah G to get a handpass out to Zachary C saw Zachary kick the first goal for the game.

Angus F was reading the play well and continued to take valuable marks around the ground to keep the game in the balance. As the sun came out from behind the clouds the level of play began to increase from both teams.

Jacob B was continuing his great season and kicked a goal in the second quarter to have the Eltham boys edging in front. Chester M was also very lively around the forward line taking some great marks and using his speed to take the opposition on. A brilliant pick up, dodge and then handpass from Chester M was one of the highlights of the game.

A goal in the third quarter by Toby C was enough to see the boys come out on top. Overall, it was a great game and played in good spirits.

Angus F had another great game which he was awarded for by receiving the opposition award. Jacob B continued his great season and was awarded the Eltham Red's Player of the Day Medal. Chester M was also awarded the Eltham Red's Player of the Day Medal for his best performance for the year as provided plenty of speed around the ball and up forward.

Alfred M provided plenty of run and clearing handpasses & Jake P lead from the front as the team captain for the day and both were awarded the Macca's awards for the day for their efforts.

Next week is a bye so everyone enjoy some well-earned rest and I look forward to seeing everyone for our Round 8 Clash against Montmorency at 9:00am.

Well done again boys!

Shane O'Keeffe

Under 10's Black

This week the boys played Kilmore at a muddy Susan Street Oval. The boys were led on to the field by our Captains Seb and Felix who both played strong games in all positions on the ground. This week we had a new player join the U10 Black Team, Harry, who played a ripper first game getting into the muddy action and fitting in well with the rest of the boys.

The key coaching message for this game was for the boys to "be First to the Ball", "get Front position" and "be strong Defenders". In the first quarter, the midfield boys Jaxton K, Felix, Caleb, Lucas and Maximus cleared the ball to the forward line numerous times, this enabled the forwards including Seb, Jobe and Sid to move the ball around well. Our backline boys Ollie C, Rhys and Riley all played strong defensive quarters with Henry taking at least 3 overhead marks to stop the opposition advances. A great passage of play was when Jaxon T kicked the ball to Oli E who took a great mark in front of goal and then kicked our first goal. Overall it was a very even contest with the ball getting to both ends of the ground.

In the second quarter, the even contest continued, Fin and Henry were working hard in the middle getting heaps of the ball, tackling and handballing well. In the forward line Luca was moving around looking for space and almost kicked a tight angle goal. Jaxton T took a few strong marks. Riley, Ollie C and Lucas were in the thick of actions at every location. The third quarter, Sid, Lachlan and Cooper were getting a lot of the ball in the middle kicking a number of times to Caleb and Josh. Down the forward line, Jobe got the ball and kicked to Rhys who then kicked long where Jaxton K took a ripper mark and then kicked our second goal for the game. On one occasion our backline boys got us out of trouble thanks to Felix kicking to Maximus who then kicked to Oli E who move the ball forward. In the final quarter, Kilmore ramped up their effort and made us work hard, Josh managed to save a certain goal by marking deep in the backline, then passing to Jarvis who kicked the ball forward. In the middle Tyler and Luca were getting into the action and handballed well to clear the ball out of packs. A great passage of play was when Lucas cleared the ball from the middle and kicked to Jaxon T who took a strong overhead mark and then kicked our third goal. Our game medal went to Jaxton K who played a dominant game around the ground especially in the middle, he was running everywhere, taking strong overhead marks and kicking well to his team mates throughout the game. A second medal went to Finley who was rucking well, he was getting into the action at every opportunity and kicked and handballed well. A game voucher went to Henry for his great performance marking everything that came near him and passing the ball accurately. Another voucher went to Felix for his skillful play at all positions around the ground. Well done boys!

This was such an even contest which was fought out in muddy conditions. Well done to the boys for their continuous efforts going after the ball, this enabled us to finish on top of our opposition.

Go Panthers! Cheers Frank, Sam and Brendan

U11's match reports

Under 11's Red Eltham vs Eltham Black

We were up against the undefeated Eltham Black at home with Harvey, Tiger our captains leading the way out onto the ground, reward for recent efforts that have shown resilience and a desire to win the ball.

The 1st quarter Dan was showing no sign of his recent illness going in hard. Mitch was working hard across the ground. We came off the ground a little flat after not scoring and getting scored on with the wind.

The 2nd quarter Tom O and Tom OJ attacked the ball. Isacc was working hard Harry and Clyde did some great second efforts. Harvey was starting to find the ball as captain. Charlie was doing a great job in the backline. We played well with the ball but struggled to man up against the opposition when they won the ball.

The 3rd quarter Tiger was first for the ball every time before getting injured, Billy did a great run and put the ball up to Dayne who took a great mark. Noah was putting himself into good positions to mark. Jordan was good in the ruck. The boys were starting to defend a little better and we still had a chance.

The 4th quarter Zac J was playing and defending well. Zach, Cooper and Knox battled it out, but the wind, margin and opposition were too great. First taste of defeat and reality check for the boys as they went down by 23 points.

Go Panthers



Under 11's Black Eltham vs Eltham Red

How sensational was it to see the future of the Eltham footy club play against each other on Sunday in the pouring rain.

The club is in good stead with this bunch of kids, both Red and Black continuing through the ranks. They are a great bunch of kids who listen, respect, play fair, and are hard at the footy. Well done to both sides.

We started well with a goal within the first few minutes with the on ballers getting it down forward quickly. Jack D is always dangerous around goals, and this was shown again. Noah was relentless in the ruck against bigger and stronger boys, a testament to his determination.

We are focussing heavily on the 1%s, and again this was evident on Sunday. Allowing our players to have another second or two to gather their time and dispose of the footy rather than being rushed. Good players get other players involved, this happened often.

Skipper and Birthday boy Felix, Max, Tyler, Hunter, Blake and Carlos had their best games for the club which again is great to see. Some of the best tackles where from this group. Liam was everywhere, Harrison took some formidable marks and tackles, and Nate was a wall down back again. Jacob (had his best game for the year) and Charlie H were simply dominant.

Special shout out to all the boys who came and had a little spell on the bench. Often there was something I had to say to them, to which they all took it on board and accepted – well done.

A brilliant performance. The boys and parents should be very proud as we are. Eltham should also be proud that they have this future at their development.

U12's match reports

Under 12's Red Eltham vs West Preston

Team Red ventured over to West Preston Lakeside on a damp day, the ground held up well after a bit of rain and the boys were up for the challenge. It was Benny G's 50th game and the boys lined up in a guard of honour as he burst through the banner as only Benny can. Ben and James Eva were our Captains for the day and led from the front all day.

There was some real promising signs and passages of play of the boys linking up exiting our defense and moving the ball through the corridor. Some great tackling and defensive pressure showed some of the things we are working on at training are paying off and translating to our game play. We struggled to convert our opportunities score despite having most of the play in our forward line especially in the 3rd quarter. Our Goalkickers today were Luka, Ryder and James. Players of the day were Gustav and Aidan S.

They boys fought it out and got within a kick in the 3rd quarter, but we ran out legs and Lakies proved too strong on the day. Let's get them next time boys. See you all at training.

Keith, Rich and Nathan



Under 12's Black Eltham vs Whittlesea

A cold and drizzly day had us heading to Whittlesea.

Our leaders for the day were Joey who's always at the contest and Johno who runs tirelessly all day to help out team mates all over the ground to either defend, as well as setting up forward plays. Another great game from both our leaders on the day.

The emphasis at training has been to work hard defending, being physical at the contest and first options once taking possession.

The first half was a tight battle with just the 1 goal scored coming from our skipper Joey and some inaccurate kicking had us 9 points in front. As we spoke to the boys at the long break, we were pleased with the endeavourer they were showing but it was now time to knuckle down use the ball well and hit the scoreboard.

Speedy moving into the ruck provided us with first use of the ball out of the middle and also his use of the ball saw him produce his best game for the season. Jakes move to forward provided us with two quick goals with one of those coming from a bone crunching contest from Darcy which allowed the ball to continue forward.

Never one to take a backwards step is what we have come to expect from Darcy and Harvey. Nugget drifting forward provided a strong marking target in which he was able to mark a long kick in from Johno and kick a nice goal.

Heading into the last quarter we urged the boys to finish the game strongly. Harvey slotted a great goal to have us surging away. We peppered the goals with continuous forward advances but only managing a few more behinds. The most pleasing aspect of the day was the ability to defend the entire ground and only allow Whittlesea to score the one behind for the day, something we were unable to do the first time we played them this season.

Once again Balin continued his tireless work ethic over the entire ground, Yorke's use of the ball off the wing linking with team mates is becoming a real feature of his game. Harley's attack and strong marking at centre half back was fantastic, Darcy's physical game is something that drags the entire team along, Dane up forward showed us the second and third efforts we love form the team. Once again it was another solid team effort which is a reflection of how the boys are training and developing together.

Keep up the great work boys.

Russ & Matt



U10/12's girls match reports

Under 10's Girls



Under 12's Girls Eltham vs Yarrambat

Getting the top team at home would normally be a recipe for a great game. Enter the rain and mud. For the first time this season, the girls were really tested with more wintry conditions and having trained in it over the past few weeks, they were ready for it.

Alice and Indie R were appointed captains for the day and provided stirring pep talks before and the game and at half time. "stay in front, build the wall" were their calls as the girls continue to build their game craft.

There is no doubting the endeavour of this team. After a bit of encouragement, once the girls hit the mud, there was no stopping them. The tackle pressure they bring is getting stronger every week and lasts from siren to siren. Even in the muddy conditions with large numbers around the ball, they continued to tackle. While the scores didn't go our way, there were definitely some wins to take out of the game. Down 55-1 at three quarter time, the girls didn't give up and tackled their way to avoid the mercy rule and not allow any further goals. The girls are finding their ability to move the ball quickly from a pack, switch play and spread to better attacking positions.

Ruby and Indie C received the awards for their relentless attack on the ball and impressive skills in the wet. If we could hand out dry cleaning vouchers, both could definitely have used one. Although they may not be winning every week, the girls still finish every game with a smile on their face and are clearly enjoying themselves. The young group are learning week by week and there is no doubt the wins will come soon.

GO PANTHERS!!

Brendan, Matt, Cam & Stu

U13's match reports

Under 13's Red Eltham vs Kilmore

Tex has been waiting for this moment for a long time, his 50th game and captain for the day. Primed and ready for a home game at Susan St, banner well crafted, family at the ready.

The sun appeared for a photo opportunity, Tex too, front and centre, a real performer. Somehow he even had the Eltham girls team lining up for him.

So just like his namesake, Tex Perkins lead singer of the Cruel Sea, our Tex appears from the rooms and leads his and team through the banner.

I first coached Tex back in Auskick, his name had my attention, 6 years later, a pleasure to coach him for his 50th. He's Eltham through and through.

Our team, up and about early, had the better of play. Tex channels the Cruel Sea Delivery Man and slots an early one. Not a bad start, but a long way to go.

The opposition started to get a run on, our backs resisted. We tackled well and played bravely. However, the mud was clunky, and our runners couldn't quite break free.

Kilmore took their chances and found another level. They sent some big boys, marked well in front, all looked and kicked like plugger. Credit to them for the win.

Our boys all had a dip, another great performance, just couldn't hold on.

So, the honeymoon is over baby... until next week.

Go Panthers!
Bec, Seado, & Wayne



Under 13's Black Eltham vs Yarrambat

Panton Hill is a beautiful place to spend a Sunday afternoon playing the glorious game of Australian Rules. The country atmosphere was divine and our team played superbly moving the ball according to our game plan. Every week we are combining better with our run and handball, kicking to position and holding our structures.

Highlights: Eden's first, second, third, fourth and fifth efforts – your best game yet as a Panther – keep up the strong attack on the football. In a similar vein, Max and Xavier competed all day long. Ollie and Jacko laid some strong tackles and had a championship quality work rate around the ground all day. Joey and Giacomo's combination run and carry was poetic in the last quarter.

Congratulations to Tom C and Joey for running through the banner together to celebrate 50 high quality games of junior football. You gave a lovely speech about each other following the game when handing over your 50 game medals to each other – beautiful to watch.

Riley and Liam B gave non-stop effort and repelled many of Yarrambat's forward attacks all day. Luca got some reward for his consistent efforts this year by kicking a beautiful goal on the run thanks to one of Oscar's many high quality handballs to the 3 metre mark.

Oscar's best game for the year to date. Keep up the humble and superb efforts big O. Patty nearly snagged another ripper goal to add to his several so far this season but the ball dribbled to the left of the goals. Eden kicked our best goal of the day with a brilliant snap kick. Jay, Cash, Tom R played their roles and as always gave 100% with strong attacks on the contested ball.

Kobi keeps getting himself into the best position and had the ball on a string at times – a solid effort Kobi. Ollie and Kobi captained for the day and led from the front whilst Liam B was a solid backline captain, communicating positively to peers to hold their structures.

Ash never stopped trying alongside Darcy who absolutely blitzed our opposition with centre clearances and football smarts around the ground for four quarters. Congratulations to Jaxson for playing an amazing game up forward – awesome skills on display. Finally, it was great to see Henry come to support his teammates despite being out with an injury.

We know our game plan by numbers now lads (45-100 and 3) and as your individual X-factor unfolds and merge this with your team-mates X-factor, we will enjoy lighting up the football fields on any given Sunday. Stick fat, don't sweat the small stuff and stay humble. 3, 2, 1 Panthers – You coaches Jamie, Matt and John, runner Troy, manager Fleur and the whole cast of parent helpers/supporters.

CONGRATULATIONS

U14's match reports

Under 14's Red Eltham vs Mernda

After a great win last week, they boys were fired up and ready to have another red hot crack, and what a crack they had, down to 14 and Jackson from the 12's (huge game mate thanks).

Again Jaydon and Oliver lead the way with great effort from start to finish. Josh lead the backline again with his usual aplomb, calm as a cucumber.

Jordan and Oskar off the wing were brilliant with their pressure and run, Jordan applying great tackles and his field positioning was outstanding, whilst Oskar snagged his 1st goal of the year and took an amazing mark.

Lachlan up forward was lively, and 1st gamer Haysam was electric. Whilst we didn't get the win, every player had a great game.

We are all super proud of the effort the boys put in every week.

Under 14's Black Eltham vs Laurimar

Today we met Laurimer at central, after meeting them once already this season and having a convincing win we turned up thinking that it would be a similar outcome. The game was scrappy and quite physical which seemed to work in their favour, our normal run and spread style of footy wasn't able to get going.

All the boys battled hard all game and had plenty of chances to hurt them on the score board but some inaccurate kicking for goal was the difference in the end, overall a great learning experience.

A massive congratulations to Xander who played his 50th game, his desire to compete in repeated contests and use the ball to our advantage every week is not only amazing to watch but also a pleasure to coach.

Well done Xander !!

Thanks to Myles and Jayden for helping us out this week, well done boys.

Thanks again to all the helpers who fill the jobs so our boys can play footy and a big thank you to Will and Owen who have both been out for a few weeks now with injuries but have been the best water carriers in the league, it's much appreciated boys.



U14/16's girls match reports

Under 14's Girls Eltham vs South Morang

The U14 Girls hosted South Morang at Susan Street and we were very excited to celebrate Addison's 50th game - an amazing milestone. The banner run through was great to see and thank you to the U13 boys who joined the line up alongside Addi's teammates to cheer her through. Our girls were looking to get one back on the South Morang team who knocked us off by 4 points in Round 1. Captain Addi reminded us throughout the day that if we put in the hard work the results would look after themselves. How true she was. The game was tough on the muddy field and as usual the tackle count was very high. In the first half it was the rare chance of clean run that led to our one goal - congrats Addi - and at half time we had a small deficit. To our girls' credit they broke open the game in the third quarter. An injury to the other team stopped the clock for a few minutes and our girls took the chance to huddle and regroup. Following the delay they quicked three straight including one to Eliza W from a set shot and two on the run from Charlotte M. The final quarter was always going to be where our hardest work happened. We didn't let them push forward and held them to a single goal taking home a hard-fought 8-point win. Congratulations girls on digging deep and fighting right to the end. Addi was enormous in her milestone game. Amy T was tough as old boots with fierce tackling on display. Ash D ran and gathered beautifully while Abi S played her best game for this year across half forward, half back and in the middle. We now hit the road for a couple of weeks and look forward to the challenge.

Under 16's Girls Eltham vs Darebin

In an exhilarating clash between Eltham and Darebin, it was a rollercoaster of emotions as we narrowly lost the match after struggling to find our rhythm and playing in patches in the first half. The first half was not without highlights with Ella kicking her first goal for the Eltham Junior Football Club. In the second half the girls produced an inspirational performance that kept all the spectators and coaches of both sides on edge. There was a dramatic turnaround, of renewed energy, focus and determination enabling the girls to show their true football potential. The girls grew in confidence and dominated the second half with Eltham having 8 scoring shots to Darebin's 1. Charlie our captain led from the front with a sensational captain's goal. A few factors did not assist us. Such as the condition of the ground not suiting our playing style with the girls consistently running through mud and being bogged down, rather than utilising their natural running ability. Combined with the fact several players were recovering from various illnesses, and players playing with injuries were not at 100%. The girls could have used this as an excuse. But to their credit, they refused to be disheartened or make excuses and launched assault after assault surging forward. Rather than mention individuals the second half was truly a team effort and while we may have narrowly lost the girls can take solace in their inspirational second-half performance their spirited fightback showcased their resilience and potential, they should be excited for what lies ahead in the rest of the season. Girls you played with passion and skill hold your heads high, know that you put on a captivating display of football, and look forward to the opportunity of playing Darebin again. A huge thank you to Rosie for running water for us even though she was injured and to Dom for consistently being there for her team. We had two mums step up for us as well thank you to Nicole and Jo. Bring on Round 7.



U15's match reports

Under 15's Red Eltham vs Mill Park

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Well, that's what summed up our game against Mill Park this week. With an injury list longer than your average toilet roll, we headed to Redleap Reserve with only 18 players. Our coach Chris asked for one simple word to remember on the field 'TENACITY' & Gee Whiz did the boys respond. On this cold, windy day and with the occasional light shower, the boys started the game kicking into the wind. With Olly starting in the ruck due to Xavier a.k.a. X-Man (being late) got the first centre clearance for the game. With Cooper E playing on big Plugger we kept Mill Park goalless for the first quarter. Again, our leaders stood up to be accountable by kicking 2 majors. Jake & Noah stand out contributors followed up by Finley, Sam & Diesel. The second quarter started with some desperation from our opponents now also kicking into the wind. With X-Man back in the centre and playing as a defensive ruck, proved too strong for Mill Park. With Liam being the potent small forward and some hard-earned contests from Owen and Lucas B we managed to hold on by 9 points at halftime.

Going into the rooms, the boys looked drained and their faces told a similar story. Could they go on? Enter FOX Footys Fan of the week, Coach Chris with some inspirational words to Gee the boys up. So, the third quarter started with a bang with Cooper K getting good use of the pill as well as James playing at CHB. With the lead changing several times & big Plugger taking big marks for Mill Park it looked as if we were done and dusted. But thanks to big Pluggers inaccuracy the boys finished the qtr, 7 points up. And Jack producing a trademark BJJ grapple tackle. At the last qtr, Coach Chris asked all players to dig deep. Our stand in statistics analyser Archie had recorded a staggering 54 tackles to their 31 for first 3qtrs. The desperation was there so was the passion and heart. The start of the 4th saw the boys all pull together and Olly kicking a goal will a Mason Redman devil salute.

Liam again being a solid contributor in the forward line. Special mention to the pocket rocket Lucas E, Rhaine, Jackson and Matty also using the ball superbly. For 18 players to play against 22 is an amazing achievement. Triumphant winning by 21 points gives us our second win for the season.

WELL DONE BOYS Written by Simon

On behalf of Chris, Scotty, Dave, Sharon and Ed



Celebrity Coach Chris



Under 15's Black Eltham v Mill Park

Although having 7 out including a couple of late withdrawals, the boys were excited to take on the in form Mill Park unit.

Commencing with just 17 until Liam C and Jake joined us after their victory against the other Mill Park side the boys had a great start. A quality clearance and quick entry to Matt who started deep forward and slotted truly. Harvey managed to roll forward late to kick a major to provide the boys a slender lead at quarter time. The 2nd quarter was a tight battle with Mill Park stepping up their pressure acts and running game. Despite 15 inside 50 entries to Mill Park for the quarter, credit to our back 6 in Elliot, Luca, Will, Logan, Ollie and Alex, Mill Park only converted 2 of the 15 entries.. Thanks to our wingers in Tom and Jamo and our mids competing hard we managed to break even in the 3rd and felt confident going into the last, however a credit to Mill Park they turned the heat up on their contested effort and their run from defense to gradually pull away to a 2 goal victory. Credit to our boys for fighting it out to the end and with these types of challenging games comes a great opportunity to learn and improve as we head toward the half way mark of the season. Thanks to Liam C and Jake for pulling the boots on for 8 quarters of footy in just a few hours, greatly appreciated lads.

Coaches, Support Team and Parents

U16's match reports

Under 16's Red

Eltham vs Laurimar

Usually the positional changes of the players are the focus of attention during the week. In an effort to keep things fresh, our coaching group played musical chairs this week. Thanks to Clint, Jason & Gary for being so understanding, coaching the team this weekend and giving the boys a different voice.

Laurimar away was always going to be a difficult task, but with only 17 boys to pick from, that task was made even tougher. Injuries have certainly played some part in this, but there is also an element of individual over team that has crept in.

Our attitudes to our training and our teammates has diminished, and that makes for a long season.

This was never going to be a season that was defined by 'W's, but in opportunity and development.

And the ones who are flourishing in this team are the ones who turn up regularly to training, and are prepared to put their head over the footy.

In the other camp, there are players whom are happy to do the bare minimum and have a Sunday giggle.

There are a mountain of lessons in team sport – if you don't embrace the good and bad, and choose to look the other way, you will never experience the beauty within it. I implore everyone to pull together and get to work.

I would like to highlight the work of Will W again this week. He is bringing electricity through the middle at the moment with his dash and kicked his first goal for the club to top it off. He was so team orientated he gave up on a chance to kick his 2nd, when dead in front. It didn't pay off, but it highlights his team first attitude.

Oliver R was also very impressive in just his 3rd game, competing strongly and was not afraid to hit the contest hard and support his teammates in close.

Mitch C had a big task at full back today where the ball was coming in regularly. He stood his ground well at times, and took a positive step forward. Much is expected of Mitch in the next two months from a leadership perspective, just as much as from his footy.

Lachy S is starting to look like a mobile tap ruckman, kicking a nice goal in general play, and playing with confidence. Like a lot of his mates, he also must get on his bike defensively. That's the next step in both his, and many of his teammates, development. Keep lifting the bar higher Lachy.

Hard work hurt likes hell, but in life and sport, it's the only answer.

Simon, Jason, Brendan, Gary & Clint.

Under 16's Black

The healthiest relationships are those where you're a team; where you protect each other and stand up for one another.



U17's and U18's girls match reports

Under 17's

Eltham vs Yarrambat

The boys played a special game on Sunday to defeat Yarrambat by 29 points at Yarrambat War Memorial Park. Once again, we gave the opposition the first 3 goals before we turned on the "let's play some footy" switch and provided the crowd some spectacular Panther entertainment. The lads piled on 7 goals in the second term and had the Bats in a flutter as they went to the sheds 8 points up. The catalyst had to be Miller going back on their most dangerous forward which triggered many positive outcomes. For one, Miller shut down their major scoring avenue and was playing at an awesome level as he put on a clinic. It gave Will the confidence to concentrate on the tall forward, Anson and Nick the assurance to turn defence into attack with the latter scoring 2 goals and Xav Mitch, Chris and Ethan the predictability of play to quell their small wing/forwards. Because of Miller, Xav Willo then became a dangerous option up forward marking strongly and kicking 2 majors. With our rucks, Brodie and Sam, resting up forward and Jett coming into the team playing deep, Yarrambat were stretched and had no answer to cover Eamon and Ben as they played the high forward roles to perfection. With all that space Lach, Rhys and Jacob worked their game to the benefit of the team. You don't play well without winning the midfield battle. Sam and Brodie were dominant and fed Matt and Jack like unsatisfied mutts all day and the opposition had no answers. Then throw in Phoenix and Cohen playing their big bodied roles it all became a formidable strike team. And because of Miller, Matt could play his natural attacking game kicking 4 goals and Jack, his humble offsider, kicking himself a ripper from the centre after a handball from Jacob to pour cold water over any Yarrambat revival in the last. Jett in his comeback kicked 3. Welcome back champ. Well done boys, you passed the test. And thanks to Will, Tom, Lucas and Luca for helping us out with numbers. You fitted in really-snug like and played your part.

Under 18's Girls

Eltham v's South Morang

Today was very disappointing. Yes we only had 16 players, and yes Sth Morang have a few pretty talented players, but we simply did not work hard enough for long enough and that resulted in our worse loss for the season. Now let's talk about the positives.

After a year on the sidelines Ava K has returned to her brilliant best. Her clearance work, her running, her toughness, her smothering, her run and carry have all returned and she is easily in the best half dozen players in the competition right now.

Maalu stepped away from her CHF duties yesterday to help in the ruck and did a great job. Alannah in only her 3 rd game back after a few years off also ran through the ruck and won the majority of hit outs.

Amy & Grace worked hard all day, pushing from contest to contest, leading hard, winning possession and trying to propel us forward, always under duress.

Itz took on the full back role and did a great job. She showed great fight and desperation for four quarters and definitely limited the score board damage.

Our 96 game veteran Livi thrives when the backline is under siege and she was at her best today. Marking, rebounding, taking on 2 or 3 opponents and winning, she is an inspiration to her team mates and coaches.

I'll leave the final praise for Poppy. Poppy is now in her third season of footy, each season she gets better and better. This season our side has been plagued by injury and Poppy has had to move from her home at full back into the midfield. This round we asked her to play as a midfield tagger against a former league Best & Fairest.

Poppy did an amazing job and got better and better as the game went on, learning from each contest. Her tackling was a feature of her game; she managed to limit her opponent's effectiveness whilst also running off of her taking the ball forward for us. The hard work at training (and school footy) is paying off, well done

Poppy.

Onwards & Upwards - Craig, Dave, Alannah & Jane.

HAVE
BIG DREAMS
YOU WILL GROW
INTO THEM

SPONSORS Please take a moment to look through our sponsors page and support their businesses where you can. Thank-you for supporting EJFC!

EJFC MAJOR SPONSORS

morrison kleeman



Community Bank
Eltham



EJFC PLATINUM SPONSORS



EJFC GOLD SPONSORS



EJFC SILVER SPONSORS





**HOTONDO
SOUTH MORANG**

**PROUDLY
SUPPORTING**

**Eltham Junior
Football Club**



Hotondo Homes

Building a new affiliation!

Hotondo South Morang are proud to become major sponsors of the EJFC for the 2023 season. Living locally, Darren & Kate have been part of the EJFC for 3 years now, with a son currently playing in the Under 10's age group. They appreciate and have seen firsthand what a positive impact a local club like Eltham has on families and the community, which is why they happily joined the contingent of sponsors for this season.

Darren has over 30 years' experience in the local building industry, and the team prides themselves on working with each client to understand their needs and preferences so that the perfect outcome can be achieved. "We can provide plenty of ideas for your build, both practical and to suit your own unique family needs. We take pride in giving clients the flexibility to modify our designs to suit their lifestyle" says Darren.

We hope that you show your support and look no further than Darren, Kate and the team to build you the perfect home.