



HOCKEY



September 1, 2017



WBHS 1st XI vs SACS :: 23 Aug 2013

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Dear SACS Hockey friends

Welcome to our twelfth and final edition of the newsletter for the season. It has truly been a pleasure bringing it to you each week, and a big thank you for the many positive comments and ideas you have given. Next season will hopefully be even better!

We ended the season against traditional rivals, Wynberg. If you look at the fact that they have six SA Schools players in their First Team, it gives you an idea of the depth of their hockey at the moment. Despite the uphill battles they faced, our boys produced some of the best hockey of the season and that, as we always say, is all we can ask of them.

It's been a very long season for the top teams, with pre-season tournaments, mid-season tournaments and now end-of-season tournaments – all on top of the normal fixtures! So, a hearty well-done to all of them, and especially to the parents who saw them through this busy schedule!

Mention must be made of the First Team and the fact that many of them were playing their last league fixture for SACS... ever. Their emotions at the end showed just how much SACS has meant to them, and just how close they came to beating arguably the top team in the country. The 1-2 score-line does not reflect how much they dominated parts of the game and how close they came to scoring on numerous occasions!

All the best to all of you as the Summer sport takes over the baton. We look forward to seeing you in a few months' time.

Below are match reports from the coaches:

First XI:

We were back playing at Wynberg, but this time for the 'away' fixture and no problem with lights! In the previous game there were plenty of learning points for the players to take. We had a good game plan to sit our defensive line slightly deeper in order to counter the pace and skill of the Wynberg forwards and midfield.



This worked really well, with both teams having dominant spells. SACS scored through a PC which broke down at the top of the D, but fell for Nick McKechnie to put a sweetly-struck back-stick

tomahawk shot across the GK and into the bottom corner of the goal.

Determined to continue to play and take it to Wynberg, SACS hustled well and kept pressure on Wynberg on counter attack but, eventually, late on in the half we showed signs that fatigue was beginning. The second half followed a similar pattern. However, Wynberg were awarded two penalty corners in quick succession which were converted well.



Back we came and had a penalty stroke awarded for a deliberate foot on the line keeping the ball out. Unfortunately it was missed. Often this will give the defending team a boost and reprieve. However, SACS created numerous other chances which they just failed to convert.

Thinking back over the season now, I guess this epitomises where we have been: always creating chances, but too often lacking the ruthlessness to score the goal. The level of umpiring upset me in this game. I felt we should have been awarded another penalty stroke, as well as the penalty corners having home-ground luck to them.

Still, this was still an excellent performance by SACS, one for the school to be proud of. Final score 1-2, but we left thinking what really could have, and should have, been.

KO Cup Semi-final vs Bishops.

SACS started this game brightly and limited Bishops for much of the first half. Again, SACS created good chances and had nice passages of play. However, as the half wore on, and with Bishops having more possession, the SACS boys started to fall deeper and deeper into their own half.



Bishops found joy with raking long balls, one of which was converted. The second half offered up chances to SACS, but we just lacked composure on the final phase in the attack. Another lapse in concentration cost us another goal, although it was a fine finish.

Chasing the game, I took Liam off from in the goals and put on a “kicking back”. In this period we conceded again. It ended as a 0-3 loss. This is the first time we have failed to score and boys left the pitch disappointed.

We have one last game against Fairbairn this week and there is real determination to finish on a high.

J. Peverley



Second XI:

The last match of our season was probably the toughest of them all. The Wynberg 2nds are a very good unit and we were up against it right from the start.

We conceded four goals in each half and, if it was not for the brilliant performance by David Rossouw, we would have taken an even bigger hiding.

The team tried hard until the end but were out-played by a better team.

Thanks to all team members for an interesting and enjoyable season.

E. Grobler

Third XI:

What an end to the season it has been! The Thirds have improved in each of their final 'big three' matches against their southern suburbs rivals. A notable change has been the match temperament and speed of play. Space has been used far more wisely and the midfield grew in confidence to dictate passages of play.



Unfortunately the struggle to create width through switching channels of play still persisted against Wynberg. If we didn't manage to penetrate the line of play, Wynberg quickly moved the ball back into our defensive zone. Two goals were scored by Wynberg, initially through a soft clearance that didn't make it out the 'D' and the second off a short corner.

The gentlemen had lovely passages of smooth passing, especially between the two CDM's, midfield and wings. The attackers, however, failed to capitalize on the breakthroughs that created chances. The final quarter still seemed and nervous and unsure area of play.



Everyone decided that the man-of-the-match award went to the entire squad, as no face looked any less haggard than the next! Well done gentlemen: we all said our goal was improvement and to stay having fun. At least those goals we scored!

S. Barnard



Fourth XI:

The 4th team ended the season on a good note by playing their best hockey of the term. They may not have won the game, but had 50% possession throughout the match, scoring two impressive goals.

Each player manage to lift his game and gave of his best during the encounter. The match was played in good spirit by both teams and was a fitting way to end the season.

After the game, we bade farewell to the Matric players, some of whom have been involved in SACS hockey from their formative years at the Junior School.

Thank you to the players for their contributions this season - we may not have performed as well as we would have hoped, but there was never a lack of good humour and banter to keep us entertained.

T. Wiborg

16A:

These are two evenly-matched teams, both able of playing at the higher end of schoolboy U16 level.

The match was a fast-paced, high-tempo game. The balance of play in the first half was with SACS, having built the ball nicely from the back, but gaining limited chances, probably due a little to naivety in trying to get to the top of the D too early, and also down to good Wynberg defending.



The deadlock was broken with a Wyberg hit which lifted over the players, which was allowed by the umpire, and through to their left striker who committed a man before laying the ball off to second post to round the goalkeeper.

SACS got back into the game and had some good penalty-corner opportunities, but were unable to convert. Wynberg managed to weather this period and scored a further two goals to leave the score 1-3 at the final whistle.



This team has shown a great deal of potential throughout the season, but lacked the edge in the final quarter of the pitch. It has shown the necessity to have a slick penalty-corner routine and composure within the D. These skills will be a priority next year.

Many of these boys will be looking to push for the 1st Team spot next year, but will have to become a little more savvy in their skill execution if they are to realise this.

J. Peverley

15A:

The team was looking forward to their final match of the season. Both teams seemed tentative in their play and the players were not stringing passes together and, in turn, giving away possession.

We conceded a goal by unfortunately passing the ball to Wynberg near the top of the circle. Fortunately we pulled back a goal soon after and the scores were level. After we had scored, we played with more confidence.

In the second half we dominated a lot more and thereby controlling the flow of the match.



We were rewarded with two goals and the boys did themselves proud to win the match. It is never easy to beat Wynberg away!

This was an excellent end to the season.

M. van Zyl



16B:

The U16B team went up against a strong Wynberg side, looking to end the season with a win. The first half was tense with Wynberg demonstrating a lot of individual skill. The stalemate was eventually broken when SACS missed a few tackles, allowing Wynberg to penetrate the circle and score. The rest of the half was dominated by Wynberg. SACS did well to keep them from scoring again.

The second half saw the U16Bs exploit some poor Wynberg marking to create a few chances. A swift counter, though, saw Wynberg make the score 2-0. SACS managed to grab one back, with five minutes left in the game, after a well-worked short corner.



The U16Bs put lots of pressure on the Wynberg backline in the dying minutes of the game, but were unable to grab the equaliser. The match ended with SACS losing 2-1. It was a disappointing end to a great season for the U16Bs.

Matthew D'Aguiar

16C:

During the week prior to the Wynberg fixture, the U16C boys managed to pick up their morale after a bitterly-disappointing loss to Rondebosch. Basic match practise and interlinking play was all that was worked on during the week, and all the boys began to find some solid form going into Friday's fixture.

SACS started the game extremely well and put Wynberg on the back foot from the start by going up 1-0. In past encounters Wynberg normally started well and put SACS under pressure and then would grow in confidence. This was not the case during this fixture: Wynberg began making costly errors, particularly when they entered our D.

SACS managed to remain calm and composed and made few errors when Wynberg were on the attack. Out of frustration, the Wynberg team began to shift the blame onto their own players and their morale dropped. SACS had had to deal with this same problem the previous week. However, this time they now motivated each other and encouraged each other, instead of playing the blame game.

In the end SACS managed to pull off a memorable victory over Wynberg, something the majority of the boys had not tasted since being at SACS. Some great form was shown by all the boys in this fixture and it was a great way to end off the season!

R. Hugo

16D:

The U16Ds finished a successful season with a disappointing 0-3 loss against Wynberg. It was always going to be a tough match, with Wynberg being the only team to have beaten us previously. The boys probably could have played better and we can make excuses like missing key players due to illness, but I think the boys put in a strong performance they can be proud of. We wanted to win and played well, but the opposition was just too strong for us.

In the first half, we got ourselves into good scoring positions but were unable to finish. Meanwhile, on the other end the defence battled and Wynberg capitalised by scoring three good goals. At half time, we changed the formation to strengthen the defence, which proved effective in not allowing Wynberg any further goals. However, our attackers still struggled to score despite many good attempts. We were also unlucky to have a goal by Philippe Hartgers not allowed.

We would like to thank Mr Richard Woodborne, one of the fathers, for once again stepping in as referee when the opposition failed to bring one.

This concludes a successful season. Out of nine games we won five (Bishops twice, Rondebosch twice and Paarl Boishaaï), drew two (Paul Roos and Wynberg) and lost two (Wynberg twice). I have greatly enjoyed coaching this team and think the boys had a lot of fun as well. I would like to thank every one of them (and their parents) for their commitment and, especially, captain Oliver Borg for his leadership of the team.

K. Brock

16E:

Our second match for the season was far better than our first match. During the first half the U16E team was attacking well defending well, so the Wynberg boys only managed to score one goal. During the half, both teams played very well with SACS scoring a goal.

Wynberg boys, however, scored four more goals. We lost the game 5-1, but the boys thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to play a match.

If the U16E team had perhaps had more occasions on which to play, they would have improved greatly.

N. Didiza

14A:

Last Friday saw the U14As play their final league fixture of the year against an unbeaten Wynberg. We knew we were in for a tough fixture as Wynberg were the team that broke our own unbeaten streak at the end of term 2, by a margin of 4-1.



The boys were very keen for the contest, and were outstanding throughout. We competed physically and kept our opponents under pressure constantly - something acknowledged by their coaching staff after the match.

We turned at half time 0-1 down, but very much in the game having had some great movements and scoring opportunities.

In the second half, try as we might, we just couldn't find the equaliser that would have perhaps panicked our opposition, as well as being great reward for our performance throughout the match. Thiago Brazier also made some outstanding saves at crucial times to keep us in the hunt.

Unfortunately we conceded a late goal with two minutes left on the clock for Wynberg to seal the deal.



The team was very disappointed to have nothing to show for a good performance and excellent physical and mental application and execution.

KNOCK-OUT Semi final vs Rondebosch Monday 28th

On Monday, the U14As played Rondebosch in the semi-final of the knock-out at Hartleyvale. Having lost 4-1 to 'Bosch ten days earlier, we were keen to turn that result around.

We unfortunately had a fairly slow start to the match. Whilst we had good structure as a team, individually we were too slow on the ball and without recognising opportunities that our opponents were presenting to us. Our structure created good turnover ball for us, but we weren't able to use it smartly enough.

Rondebosch were also more hungry and accurate in our 23 and D than we were in theirs - and ultimately this was the difference. Bosch earned eight penalty corners from their forays into our danger zone, whilst we could only accrue two.



The team defended their PCs excellently, until Bosch eventually ended up scoring from their eighth and final effort about four minutes from the final whistle.

The boys showed great character in these two final fixtures of the season, and it's a real pity that we couldn't turn either of these tight

encounters into a victory. We need to learn to pass the ball more effectively under pressure, where time and space in these tight matches is at a premium.



Thanks to all the boys that played for the U14As this year for the commitment and passion (22 boys in total!... which is satisfying that so many have contributed to our success this season).

Thanks, too, to all the parents for ensuring the boys were at all trainings and matches, as well as for your loyal support.

All in all, we played 22, won 16, drew 2, lost 4, scored 75 and conceded 15. It's a record to be proud of – but there's always room for improvement!

A massive thanks to Mr Alan Willows for all his admin to make sure the team functioned smoothly, as well as for his tireless energy to make sure the boys were physically prepared for each match and motivated throughout!

Also a massive thanks to Mr Pierre le Roux for stepping in to coach the team when my various other commitments kept me away. And to Mr Peverley, for all his assistance throughout the year and for allowing me to pursue my various other commitments throughout the season.

Stronger and better in 2018 boys!

Gegg Clark

14B:

On Friday, the team faced their toughest opponents for the season. From the start of the game, it was one-way traffic. There truly isn't much to write home about, but the boys gave it their all, something to be very proud of!

Our lack of physicality and marking in our own D severely let us down, as we went on to concede five goals. Having said that, I have never witnessed a goalkeeper play so well and still be beaten



five times - Wynberg must have had close to twenty shots on target! On attack we offered little in return as we were swamped by the better side on the day.



However, this by no means spoils what was a fantastic season of hockey. The work ethic, passion and fast-paced hockey, produced by a lovely bunch of boys, mesmerized the coaching staff and supporters. What an honour and privilege it has been to be part of such a wonderful team.

A huge thanks must go out to the players and parents, as well as Mr Willows and Mr Clark for their guidance and support throughout the season.

Sam Holmes

14C:

It has been a turbulent season for the Under 14 C team, with a lack of consistency in attitude and performance. It was unfortunate that we should go down 0-7 to Wynberg in our last game, as this result does not reflect our best efforts.

However, it has been great to see the relatively-novice team acquire the skills and tactics required to make good hockey players. I look forward to seeing their progress next year with a more-focused attitude.

We have a number of wins to be proud of this season and a number of losses to learn from. In addition to the acquisition of a new skill set, the boys have learned the value of not giving up and letting their heads drop - by these means, we earned some impressive victories. Onwards and upwards for the Under 14 Cs!

J. Skeat

SACS HOCKEY RESULTS vs WBHS [2nd Round]

TEAM	OPPONENTS	SCORE
SACS 1 st	WBHS 1 st	1 - 2
SACS 2 nd	WBHS 2 nd	0 - 8
SACS 3 rd	WBHS 3 rd	0 - 2
SACS 4 th	WBHS 4 th	2 - 5
SACS 16A	WBHS 16A	1 - 3
SACS 16B	WBHS 16B	1 - 2
SACS 15A	WBHS 16C	3 - 1
SACS 16C	WBHS 16D	1 - 0

SACS 16D	WBHS 16E	0 - 3
SACS 16E	WBHS 16F	1 - 5
SACS 14A	WBHS 14A	0 - 2
SACS 14B	WBHS 14B	0 - 5
SACS 14C	WBHS 14C	0 - 7
SACS 14D	WBHS 14D	0 - 10

SACS KNOCK-OUT HOCKEY RESULTS

TEAM	OPPONENTS	SCORE
SACS 1st	Bishops 1st	Play Monday 28th
SACS 16A	RBHS 16A	0 - 2
SACS14A	Stellenberg 14A	6 - 0



... and so ends a topsy-turvey season!