



HOCKEY



11 APRIL 2019



Photo: Gregg Clark

It's that time of year again. There's the smell of Bootlegger's coffee in the air and of the newly-cut astro, plaintive cries of "Get the ball!" from the side-lines and spectators being soaked by the automatic sprinkler system. Yes, hockey season has arrived!

For some, the season began a number of weeks ago with pre-season training and holiday tours. A big thank you must go to those parents who so willingly gave of their time and funds to make the tours possible. These pre-season tours are of great benefit to our top players and this was clearly evident in the results against Somerset College this past weekend.

The coaches' match reports will follow, but mention must be made of the fact that NO goals were scored against us by Somerset College, a rare feat indeed. The 49 goals from our side showed that we are all ready for a good season ahead.

So, please, do join us on Friday afternoon and evenings, as well as on Saturdays. There is always a warm ambience, even if the weather is a bit chilly.

Below are the four reports from the relevant coaches:

1st X1 Tour:

The introduction of the residential hockey training camp and the Friday inter-squad games gave a new and refreshing focus to U19 pre-season hockey this year. A significant number of boys were involved in the strength and conditioning programme designed by SSISA since October. Coaches Clark, Peverley and van Zyl gave the players a great deal of technical and tactical input and energy in making them well prepared for the tours over the holidays. Warm-up fixtures vs Bishops (2-3) and Wynberg (3-2) provided really good indicators of how the squad had progressed.

The squad selected to tour travelled to Northwood School in Durban. Tour results were positive and the SACS squad grew in tactical proficiency as well as a team.

Tour results were:

SACS v Queens: SACS won 3-0

SACS v Gelnwood: SACS won 3-2

SACS v Kearsney: SACS lost 2-3

SACS v Affies: SACS won 3-1

SACS v Northwood: SACS lost 1-2

SACS v Westville: SACS drew 1-1

Well done to the boys for coming through adversity, injuries and illnesses and an unfavourable match schedule. These things will make the SACS U19A team a closer group and I look forward to seeing this fine group of young men progress throughout the season.

2nd X1 Tour:

The 2nd team were very excited about the tour to George. This enthusiasm was evident in our first two matches on day one. Even though the first game is always where the team gets a feel for each other, the boys played with a high level of energy. Also new for the festival was that the format changed to four fifteen-minute chukkas. The boys took this new format in their stride. The pace of the match was high against York Invitation. We created a few opportunities early in the match and went ahead by a goal. But the final part of the match is when the team converted more opportunities, resulting in very pleasing victory. In the second match of the day against St Dominic's, the team started off in the way that they ended their first match. They were disciplined and patient. Playing a positive brand of hockey, the team were rewarded with a very good victory.

On the second day, we had a 7:30 start and it was going to be our toughest test of the festival. The match fluctuated with periods of play where we were under pressure, especially on the counter attack, as Queens were putting a lot of pressure on the ball carrier. Once we bypassed their initial pressure, we utilised our ball speed, combined with our pace of the forwards, very well to make it difficult for them. We deservedly took the lead but knew that Queens would not give up and would continue to pressurise us. They eventually managed to get an equaliser. The final result was a draw. The team were disappointed as they felt that they deserved the victory as they had played the stronger hockey for the duration of the match. In our second match against Edgemoor, the team played good hockey, but we were starting to miss too many opportunities. The team started to feel the pressure at times and this led to us losing our patience and showing signs of frustration. We later started to show more patience and as a result had a very good victory.

On the final day we played Pinelands Invitational team. This match ended up challenging us in many ways. This is good as you always learn a lot more from matches that are sometimes very frustrating and not always going our way, despite feelings that they should. The boys again played a good brand of hockey, but Pinelands were very defensive in their play. They had one penalty corner and scored from it and went ahead against all expectations. The most frustrating aspect for the team was the fact that we were creating many opportunities, but the ball seemed destined not to go into the goal. We scored close to the end of the match to draw the match.

The team did very well in winning three matches and drawing two. They played exciting hockey and I do believe that we will take all the positives forward into the rest of the season and that we will utilise the good foundation that we have built at the festival. Thank you to the team for their commitment during the festival.



York High Results

Vs York Invitation Won 4-0 (Ethan Abrahams x2, Ibrahim Mahmood, James Macdonald)

Vs St Dominic's 1st Won 5-0 (Matthew Beck x2, Christopher Breetzke x2, Reece Nunnerley)

Vs Queens College Drew 1-1 (Reece Nunnerley)

Vs Edgemean 1st Won 2-1 (Ibrahim Mahmood, Matthew Beck)

Vs Pinelands Invitation Drew 1-1 (Ibrahim Mahmood)

U16 Tour:

The u16A squad headed to Dale College in the Eastern Cape to take part in the annual Founders Festival. Like any school tour, there was a great buzz of excitement as the team huddled together in the early hours of the morning, embarrassingly posing in front their paparazzi parents. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity getting through security, we were off!

Whilst driving to Dale from the airport, some boys experienced a massive culture shock as the modernity of Cape Town had been replaced with rural rolling green fields, cows and huts. At the back of the bus I heard someone anxiously ask, "Are we going to be playing on an Astro?"

These anxieties were quickly allayed as we arrived at Dale - we wolfed down a quick meal and headed down to the turf to take on our first opponents, Merrifield. The game was a mixed bag as we struggled to find connections and, when we eventually did, we were unable to finish the chances we had created. We ended up winning the game 2-0, despite being well below our best.

On the second day we started playing better hockey and were able to break down sides thanks to our structure and movement on and off the ball. We beat hosts, Dale College, 4-0 in the morning and dismantled a weak Potch side 9-0 in the afternoon. The boys spent their off time shopping in the bustling metropolis of King Williamstown and relaxing in the hostel.

Day 3 posed harder challenges and we were pushed by a decent Affies side. However, we were ultimately too strong and some individual brilliance in key moments allowed us to come away with a 2-0 victory. In the afternoon we played a talented Queens outfit, capable of wreaking havoc on the counter. Unfortunately for hockey, the reffing was diabolical and prevented the game from being the exciting spectacle that it was expected to be. To the boys'

credit, they remained more composed than their coaches and we ended up winning 3-0.

For the first time in the week, the boys were fast asleep before the coaches, as the heat and running had finally caught up with them! Thankfully, on the final day, this was not an issue as we dismissively did away with Pearson, beating them 4-0 in a game where we exhibited high intensity, great passing and clinical finishing.

The tour was well enjoyed by all! Special thanks must go to Etienne Grobler for accompanying the team as manager and to all the parents that came along - your support and help did not go unnoticed!

It is with great excitement that I look forward to a successful and enjoyable season of hockey, watching this talented side grow!

RESULTS:

1. vs Merrivale [Port Elizabeth]

Won 2 – 0 [James Royden –Turner & Aidan Fourie]

1. vs Dale College

Won 4 – 0 [Matthew Versfeld; Ryan Silberbauer; Jadon Petersen & Amar-Shan Khan]

2. vs Potch Boys' High

Won 9 – 0 [Jadon Peterson x 4; James Royden-Turner x 2; Damian Knott; Israr Fayker & Amar-Shan Khan]

3. vs Affies

Won 2 – 0 [James Royden-Turner & Matthew May]

4. vs Queen's College

Won 3 – 0 [James Royden Turner x 2 & Amar-Shan Khan]

5. vs Pearson [Port Elizabeth]

Won 4 – 0 [James Royden-Turner x 2; Damian Knott & Ryan Silberbauer]

Goals for, 24, and 0 against. **James Royden-Turner** was the leading goal scorer with 8 goals, closely followed by **Jadon Peterson** with 5.

U15 Tour (at WPCC):

Due to the u16A team being invited to the Founders festival, we entered our u15A team into an u16A team festival, which was always going to be a tough situation and a massive test for the boys, but we were confident that a crucial learning curve, heading into the season, would follow.

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A tough first match up against Westville awaited and a huge lesson was learnt in a 5-1 loss. What was brilliant to see was the continual passion the guys showed throughout the game, culminating in a celebration when we scored our goal. A much better day two arrived in the form of 3-0 win over Parel Valei and a 1-0 win over DF Malan (bearing in mind these are u16A teams). Huge strides were taken, and mental strength shown.

The boys headed into further tough matches on day 3, with a 3-0 loss to Menlo Park and 4-1 loss to York. It must be noted that these games were far closer than the score suggests as there were goal flurries from the opposing team only in the last couple of minutes. The boys did themselves proud. A final game against a top Clifton team ended with SACS being 4-0 down. The festival gelled the team and taught valuable lessons heading into the season and the most one can say that the SACS u15A team shows a ton of excitement.



U14 Tour (at WBHS):

The Nomads U14 festival provided the perfect opportunity to start the hockey year for the "new" boys to SACS High School.

In the first match on Day 1, SACS played against Jeppe High School. The game was evenly poised 1 - 1 at half time with SACS having the better first half chances. After conceding two early goals in the 2nd half, things unravelled for SACS, leading to a humbling 1 - 5 loss. Later in the day, the team had to rebound against Grey College. Excellent defensive work from **Thomas Stewart, Nick la Grange and Luke Salters** (where Grey hardly found the SACS circle) and exciting SACS counter attack hockey from **Dean Carrick and Abdul-Sataar Allie**, led to the match ending 3 - 0 to SACS.

SACS started day two against KES and, after some scrappy hockey on a hot dry pitch, SACS ran out 6 - 0 winners. The match included a dominant midfield performance from **Josh Opperman** and a deserved hat-trick from **Rowan**

Davis. Later in the day, SACS encountered the physical Pretoria Boys' team. After a good start, great inter-play between midfielders **Mike Royden-Turner, Liam Haupt** and **Mike Cowen**, and again solid defence from **Wayne Mandabva** and **Luke Vos**, SACS closed the match out 4 - 1 victors.

Day three is always a mentally demanding day of any tournament where all the teams are physically drained. Added to this, SACS had the challenge of playing the traditional powerhouse of schoolboy hockey, Maritzburg College. By this stage SACS had developed a recognisable style of playing, with an organised defence lead by the team general **Mike Cowen**, while counter-attacking with flare when the opportunity presented. With a superb physical and mental effort, SACS ran out 5 - 0 victors, with Maritzburg College only entering the SACS circle on 3 occasions over the whole match.

The tournament was hosted by Wynberg Boys' High School, so the SACS players stayed together at the Cowen's residence. This proved to be a catalyst to team building and camaraderie which aided the team gelling process. With only one half of hockey going against SACS in the whole tournament, the SACS players will remember Nomads 2019 as a successful start to their SACS hockey careers.



Below are the match reports for SSC matches:

1st X1:

The U19A team was keen to build on the pre-season tour and welcomed **Chris Breetzke and Fai'q Ebrahim** to the match day squad following illness to Luke D'Aguiar, Jaeden Buhler and injury to Kyle Baxter. It was testament to the pre-season work that we did as an U19 group that they were able to fit in so seamlessly.



The game started really well for SACS, keeping a good defensive pattern and high offensive rhythm. SACS used the width of the pitch well and were patient in their build up. Somerset College were gradually pulled apart with the slick passing and **Daniel Opperman** found room to pivot and drive from the top D to score high into the net. Continued high pressure allowed

SACS to dictate the game, and **Opperman and Ansell** seemed to trade goals at will.

The PC flickers were given the opportunity to groove their flicks following good work by the forwards who stuck to their patterns well.

Half time score was 5-0 up. As Mr Clark said to the boys after the game, at times when you are up, you need to maintain what you were doing right as it is hard to dip and then come through that trough to peak again. The SACS boys lost a little intensity in structure in the second half, as well as Somerset College defending with more vigour.



Two more goals by **Ansell and Opperman** left the score 7-0. A nasty injury prevented the Somerset College GK from being able to stand in for the final act of the game - a penalty stroke for SACS. The game was called off short and the score left at 7-0 to SACS.



It was a really positive way to kick off the season. I am very proud of the way this group has approached the training and pre-season. I think more good things await this team in 2019.

2nd X1:

After our successful tour, the team were looking forward to the match. All did not go to plan and we were not playing the way we intended to play. We seemed indecisive with our decision making.

This in turn forced us into play 1 vs 1 hockey in all areas of the field and therefore we were losing many of these situations. We needed to keep possession for longer periods.

Also, from a structure perspective, we allowed Somerset to control the midfield for too long a period and did not put enough pressure on their defence. The pressure was taken of us when **Reece Nunnerley** scored our opening goal.

The second half was a much better performance from the team. Structure was better and we controlled the ball for longer periods of time. The team started to move the ball into good attacking zones much more quickly.

Even though at times we did not successfully complete passes and execute our penalty corners that well, there were periods of very good hockey.

The team scored four goals in the second half and deserved the victory. Second half goal scorers were **Ibrahim Mahmood, Matthew Beck, Devon Young and Ethan Abrahams.**

U16A:

The league opener is always an exciting fixture and the boys were eager to show off their progress after a lengthy pre-season, tour and hockey clinic. We started with blistering speed, scoring two goals in the first two minutes. From then on, the mismatch was clear as Somerset College struggled to enter our half.

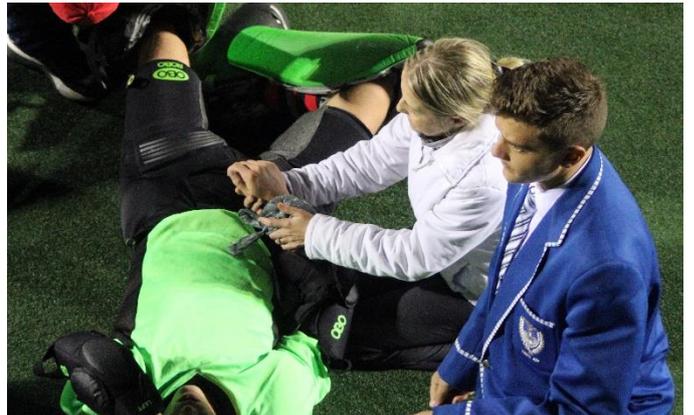
The boys did exceedingly well to maintain their structures and not get sucked into 1 on 1 battles, but rather operate as a cohesive unit, passing and linking up well in all areas of the park. Some flashy finishing allowed us to score 9 goals, whilst **Gian Luca Virisimo**, our GK, was given the Friday off!



If we were to be hard on ourselves, we would have to admit that we could have been more clinical and will have to be more clinical in the D, come tougher opposition. However, the team culture that has been created, along with the style of hockey that we are playing, is extremely positive and indicative of good things to come.

Goal scorers: **Petersen x2, Fayker x2, Knott x2, Royden-Turner, Fourie, Khan.**

Pot-Pourri



U16B:

The U16B boys played their first game against the U16A Reddam Westlake side on Friday 5th April. A nervous start quickly turned in to excitement as the boys gathered themselves and structure and space were adopted. **Callum Parker** fed the ball into the back of the goals after constructive play down the right hand side of the field through a well-rehearsed team build up execution and baseline run.

Reece Alperstein scored a cracker after a quick free hit was taken by **Daniel Coetzee**. He threw a huge overhead to Reece who, with an amazing first touch, beat the keeper and extended our lead and secure a 2-0 win. The man of the match went to **Luke Slingsby** for the composure and pure skill he showed the Reddam team, despite being the smallest boy on the field.

Overall, the boys were outstanding and, as a unit, set a good tone for the season to come.

Well done boys!

U15A:

The SACS u15A team kicked off the school league with an emphatic 8-0 win over the Somerset College u16B team. This is always a tricky first fixture to prepare for. This is because such a team is always unpredictable, given that their skill level and quality fluctuates year-by-year.

This was also the first game this season for a few of the players, due to them having been unavailable for the u16A festival team during the holidays.

The boys started extremely brightly and scored a well-worked tap-in goal within the first two minutes of the game. Going into the halftime break 5-0 up, we knew we shouldn't take our foot off the pedal. Another dominant half ensued, but saw only three more goals as the Somerset College goalkeeper was on fire. First hurdle for 2019 ticked!

U14A:

The first home game of the season for the U14A side proved to be a one-sided affair with Somerset College camping in defence and rarely attacking the SACS circle. It did however prove frustrating for SACS as they were unable to find clear chances in the congested SC circle.



SACS squandered many chances in the first half, but were two goals up thanks to goals from **Rowan Davis** and **Liam Haupt**. In the 2nd half SACS were more composed and started unpuzzling the SC defence. In perhaps one of the moves of the season, SACS finished the match with a 10-pass combination that ended with a simple tap-in. Three second half goals from **Dean Carrick**, **Rowan Davis** and **Abdul-Aziz Thompson** secured a 5 – 0 victory for SACS.

U14B:

The first game of the hockey season for the SACS u14 B side had finally arrived! The boys were really eager to get on the field and, despite being an early morning fixture, the energy levels shown by the boys were great to see.

The SACS u14B side started the first half on the right foot by showing their dominance with high intensity and moving the ball well through the lines. They created chances left, right and centre. Somerset keeper responded by stopping many shots and was well organised in the D. SACS could only produce two goals off their countless opportunities through circle entries and short corners. Somerset would produce chances to attack off the counter attack, but **Nick Kenny** and **Ryan Dawson** were always one step ahead and managed any threat there were to offer from Somerset College.

The second half is when the magic happened for the SACS. The boys were starting to connect and wanted the ball more in the attacking third. Chances were implemented through passing and moving which is every coach's dream to see. **Tomas Klusener** and **Shuaib Sulaiman** were deadly, creating countless overlaps through this. SACS managed to score 7 goals in the second half to make the final score-line 9-0 to SACS. A great start to the season!

Results from the weekend:

Team	Opponents	Score
1st	Somerset	7-0
2nd	Somerset	5-0
16A	Somerset	9-0
16B	Reddam A	2-0
15A	Somerset 16B	8-0
14A	Somerset	5-0
14B	Somerset	9-0

This weekend's fixtures

DATE: 12/13 April						
TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	FIELD	DAY	TIME	
U19A	Pinelands	Pinelands	Pinel. HS	Fri	14:30	
U19B	Pinelands	Pinelands	Pinel. HS	Fri	15:45	
U19C	RBHS	SACS	Brewery	Sat	09:00	
U19D	RBHS	SACS	Brewery	Sat	08:00	
U19E	Bishops	SACS	Brewery	Fri	16:45	
U16A	Pinelands	Pinelands	Pinel. HS	Fri	18:45	
U15A	Pinelands	Pinelands	Pinel. HS	Fri	17:45	
U16B	Fairbairn	FB		Wed	16:45	
U16C	Jan v Riebeeck	SACS	Brewery	Fri	17:45	
U16D	RBHS	SACS	Brewery	Sat	10:00	
U16E						
U14A	Pinelands	Pinelands	Pinel. HS	Fri	16:45	
U14B	Pinelands	SACS	Brewery	Fri	14:30	
U14C	Khaya / Langa	Away	Langa HC	Sat		
U14D	Settlers	SACS	Brewery	Fri	15:30	



(Photo: Matt Wilson)

