



HOCKEY



31 MAY 2019

After the high-stress weekend against Rondebosch, our players were able to relax a wee bit as they took on, for the most part, Stellenberg.

The exams are well under way and the boys are having to cope with the academic pressure too, as well as our Muslim players being in the middle of the Ramadaan month fast. So, well done to all (parents included) for your commitment to SACS hockey, through thick and thin.

This weekend we take on Wynberg, an encounter that is always filled with keen competitiveness. Wynberg is a top hockey school, and they are always keen to take the scalps of "Triangular schools" like SACS. So, for the last time this term, let us turn out tonight at the SACS astro, and tomorrow at both SACS and Wynberg astros, and give the players as much as they give us.



Below are the match reports for the Stellenberg games:

1st XI:

It was a tough week following on from the disappointment of the Rondebosch draw. Exams were in full flow as well, so the energy in the squad was a little low.

However, they brought some outstanding play at times to the Stellenberg game, who were, and have been all season long, a difficult team to break

down. They are dogged and determined and have a good defensive structure.



The deadlock was broken in the first half by **Chris Breetzke** (left) through a rebound off the goalkeeper at penalty corner from **Nathan Ansell**. The game was in control, but SACS struggled to find the killer ball in the D and, as such, Stellenberg always had a chance in the game.

However, the SACS players kept control of the game and scored another penalty corner in the final quarter, **Ansell** beating the keeper for pace.

It was a solid performance and this SACS team is so nearly there. We're looking forward to a cracking game against Wynberg this Friday.



2nd XI:

We were not sure what to expect from Stellenberg, which is often a good thing as it dispels the tendency to be complacent. Early in the first half we managed to score, which is always a good way to start a match.

After that we spent the majority of the first half in the Stellenberg half, with many opportunities created. Stellenberg tried valiantly, but could not get ball possession. At half time we were 8-0 ahead.

The second half challenge was not to run too much with the ball and move it around. The team stuck to the task and it was made easier with not being under any pressure. We scored 5 more goals in the second half.

Goal scorers were **Ethan Abrahams and Devon Young** with a hat-trick each. **Matthew Beck and Daniel Tukker** each scored two goals and **James MacDonald, Adam Arends and Ryan Johnson** each scored one goal.

3rd XI:

This weekend the Thirds had a match against Westerford. Having told the squad that they would be playing the Westerford 1st team kept practices at a good intensity. Unfortunately there is still a lack of initiative to practise with a high work rate. It is a constant battle to encourage the team to pass hard and to be mindful of posture and stick-position. Honing these skills is vital to being able to concentrate on the bigger picture in matches rather than worry one might make small, careless errors.

This somewhat relaxed mentality therefore slips into match play and the Thirds often find themselves on the back-foot at the start of a match. When the team realised they were playing the Westerford third squad, they took their feet off the gas pedal and coasted to a 3-0 lead by half time. **Michael Willig** asked his team for a more focused approach in the second half and reminded the gentlemen that this match set the tone for our ambitions against Wynberg.

In the second half **Ben Schneider** and **Reuben Allies** sealed the victory with a hat-trick each, contributing to an end-score of 10-0. While the tempo was far better in the second-half, the Thirds were left questioning how they even let Westerford through at times.

Moments of scintillating passing between the links and attackers show how the spacial awareness of each player has improved. The finishing was far better this week and the forwards are hungry for a few goals this weekend once more.

U16A:

On Friday afternoon the u16As took on an untested Stellenberg side in a fixture that ended up being far trickier than it should have been. The boys started off well, with the mountainous **Matthew May** (below) scoring two beautiful drag-flicks - the one nestled in the top right corner, the other, powerfully forced into the bottom left of the goals.



Our ascendancy was palpable, as we entered their D with great freedom and a swift strike from **Jadon Petersen** saw us go 3 - 0 up. Unfortunately, after that we completely took our foot off the pedal and this showed as we went from looking unstoppable to, quite literally, being unable to stop a ball. This prevented us from moving the ball in key areas of the

park. Chances went a begging and a spirited Stellenberg slipped in the back door.

The score line jumped to 3-2 before **Mike McGaw** was able to put a goal away and take us two clear. Unfortunately, complacency settled in once more and Stellenberg answered us with relative ease, taking the score-line to a nerve-wracking 4-3, a score-line at which the game would end.



After our elevated heart rates had calmed down, and we had begun to take apart the near disaster, the team were able to quite clearly evaluate that we fell short, and how to rectify it moving forward. I have the utmost confidence that we will provide an unrecognizable performance compared to this, come Wynberg.

U16B:



The u16 B team took to the field on Friday with only 12 men, leaving them with only one substitute.

The game got off to an uneasy start with the boys playing out of position due to the low number of lads. This was due to many boys

being sick and unable to play. Despite the rocky start, the boys were all over Stellenberg when they settled into their positions and found the rhythm.

With so many circle entries, the boys only managed to convert 5. This being said, one would say only if they had watch the actual amounts of chances created.

The player of the match went to **Reece Alperstien** as he scored all 5 goals.



An absolute valiant effort by the 12 man team!

U16C:

After the disappointing loss against Rondebosch, the SACS u16C team looked to bounce back with a win against Westerford u16C over the weekend.

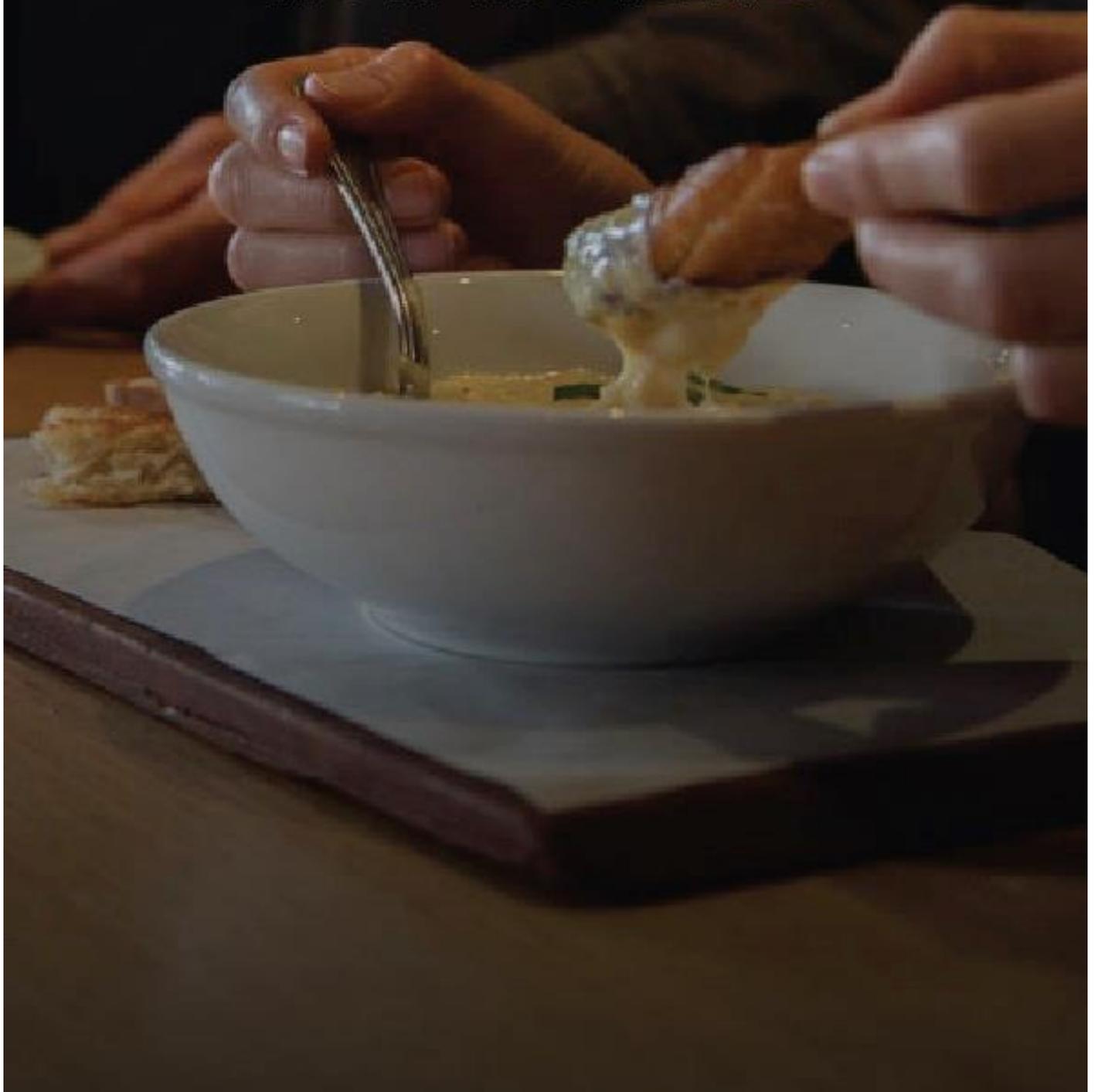
The SACS boys worked hard during the week, focusing their attention on better exit play and trying to switch the play rapidly at the back to find decent gaps in the defence in which to create some good attacking opportunities. The team decided that this would have to be practised in the match while under pressure so that it could be used against tougher opponents.

For the first half, the focus was purely on getting this right. Soon enough, Westerford realised the game plan and ensured that there was no way of the SACS u16C from spreading the ball around. The game plan was changed in the second half by playing more directly and applying as much pressure as possible on the Westerford D. This resulted in 10 penalty corners, which again was excellent practice for the matches to come.

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The match was won by SACS 4-0, against a very determined Westerford team who applied some good pressure on our defenders and gave them good practice for the matches to come.

U16D:

The U16Ds enjoyed a comfortable win against Westerford U16D on Saturday morning at Westerford. We dominated the game and came away with a well-deserved 10-0 victory. Goals were scored by **Cale Harrison** x 5, **Mpho Ndlovu** x 3 and **Cameron Turner** x 2. Well done boys!

90% of the game was played in the opposition's half and our attackers did well to create and convert their goal-scoring chances. After an intensive focus on short corners during the week, it was good to see the boys converting 4 of the 8 short corners into goals.

On the other end of the field the defence did not have much to do and, on the occasions that the ball did enter our half, they managed to gain possession of it quickly and returned it before it got anywhere close to the goal. The keeper never even touched the ball!

This was a nice change of pace after a tough start to the season, and in between the high pressure games against Rondebosch and Wynberg. We will be working hard this week to prepare for this next big match.

U15A:

In stark contrast to last week's fixture vs Rondebosch, our next opponents were from an up-and-coming hockey school and slightly unpredictable.

The team discussed in the pre-game team talk that sport brings with it a competitive nature to continually prove oneself, and so theme of the fixture was to 'prove' yourself and give your teammates your all.

This certainly was evident in the match, which ended 15-0 and was called off 6 minutes early. A huge congrats must go to **Saul Alperstein** on scoring his first goal (and first hattrick) for the u15A team. Now for the true derby day, Wynberg!

U14A:



The mid-exam matches for SACS teams are always unsure affairs. The U14A team, however, countered this by starting their match with a goal by **Rowan Davis** in the first minute. This settled the team immediately, which allowed SACS to play free-flowing hockey. A typical ghosting run by **Josh Opperman** (left) saw him enter the circle unchallenged and to deftly guide the ball past the keeper.

The few opportunities that Stellenberg then had on counter attacks were dealt with by **Rogan Stirk** and his defenders. An opportunistic solo run from **Abdul-Sataar Allie** ended in a simple far-post goal and then **Rowan Davis** netted again off a PC for SACS to end the half 4-0 up.

In the second half the SACS boys had better ball control, but with a congested circle in front of them, goals were difficult to get. **Mat Lowe, Dean Carrick and Abdul-Sataar Allie** all found ways through to each score a goal for SACS to end the match 7-0 up.



A good performance from the SACS U14A side to keep them on top of the WP U14 Premier league.

U14B:

After the Lads put in hard work in their training sessions, where the boys focused on team-play and goal-scoring, SACS u/14 B's were ready to face Stellenberg.

The first half started well for SACS. The boys really stepped up by moving the ball with ease line over line. Chances came fast, but Stellenberg managed to keep the SACS at bay with denying them early penalty corners and shots at

goal. SACS were first to get on the score sheet through a field goal by **Leseli Martel** who deflected a ball from **Shuaib Sulaiman**.

SACS then scored again soon after when **Caelen Bright** scored a slap-in shot from the P-spot. SACS didn't give Stellenberg any chance to get back into the game. **Tom Klusener** put in another dominating performance in the midfield and soon got on the scoresheet by scoring a superb tomahawk from top D to make the score-line 3-0 to SACS. A goal then came through **Caelen Bright** with an excellent back-space shot hitting the back board of the goal. The first half ended 4-0 to SACS.

The second half was much of the same. SACS continued with their display of great hockey. SACS managed to score 6 goals in the second half which was amazing, improving from their tally of 4 in the first half. **Shuaib Sulaiman** scored 2 goals, **Abdul Aziz Thomson** scored one ripper of a hit into the top right corner of the goal, **Nic Kenny** scored a good short routine and **Caelen Bright** scored 2 goals in the second and also ended up with a hat-trick this game.

However Stellenberg managed to score a conciliation goal off a penalty corner where the ball unluckily deflected off a SACS player's stick into the goals. The game was very positive and SACS ended up beating Stellenberg 10-1.

U14C:

On Saturday morning, our U14C hockey team played against Westerford at the Westerford Imhoff sports grounds. The boys were excited and confident that they would have another successful match!

Within the first 5 minutes of the game, **Aidan Jones** scored a goal and the team were elated. They had been spending the whole week practising their short corners and their passing on the field and they were finally putting some of this into practice!

In the second half, a second fantastic goal was scored by **Jaydon Giraudeau** which helped us to win the game in the end with a 2-0 victory.

It is wonderful to see the boys gaining confidence on the field and enjoying themselves. We look forward to our game against Wynberg this coming week.



U14D:

The U14Ds were in good spirits leading up to the fixture against Westerford. The game began with us taking possession; **Jamie Smit** carried the ball up the left side of the field and into their "D". After no goal, Westerford managed to run the ball right the way back down the field and scored against us, 0-1.

The back and forth continued and we managed to get in another good run – **Nicholas Mackay** received the ball and slipped it into the goal to level the score. Not long after, **Jamie** made another good play to **Nicholas Mackay** who scored another beautiful goal to take us into the lead 2-1. During the remainder of the first half we had a lot more play on their side of the field with links **Alex Moon** and **Max Martin** providing some solid passes up field.

The second half continued the backwards and forwards trend – our defenders managed to keep the ball up-field and away from our goalie, but the opportunities to score didn't materialise into further goals.

The game ended with a score of 2-1 and the team were very satisfied with their first win, a testament to their fine teamwork this week.



SACS HOCKEY

DATE: 24/25 May

TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	FIELD	DAY	TIME	
U19A	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Fri	19:00	
U19B	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Fri	17:55	
U19C	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Sat	11:00	
U19D	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Sat	10:00	
U19E	Wynberg	WBHS	WBHS B	Fri	15:30	
U16A	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Fri	16:40	
U15A	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Fri	15:30	
U16B	Wynberg	WBHS	WBHS A	Fri	17:30	
U16C	Wynberg	WBHS	WBHS A	Fri	16:30	
U16D	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Sat	09:00	
U16E						
U14A	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Fri	14:30	
U14B	Wynberg	WBHS	WBHS A	Fri	15:30	
U14C	Wynberg	WBHS	WBHS A	Fri	14:30	
U14D	Wynberg	SACS	Brewery	Sat	08:00	

