

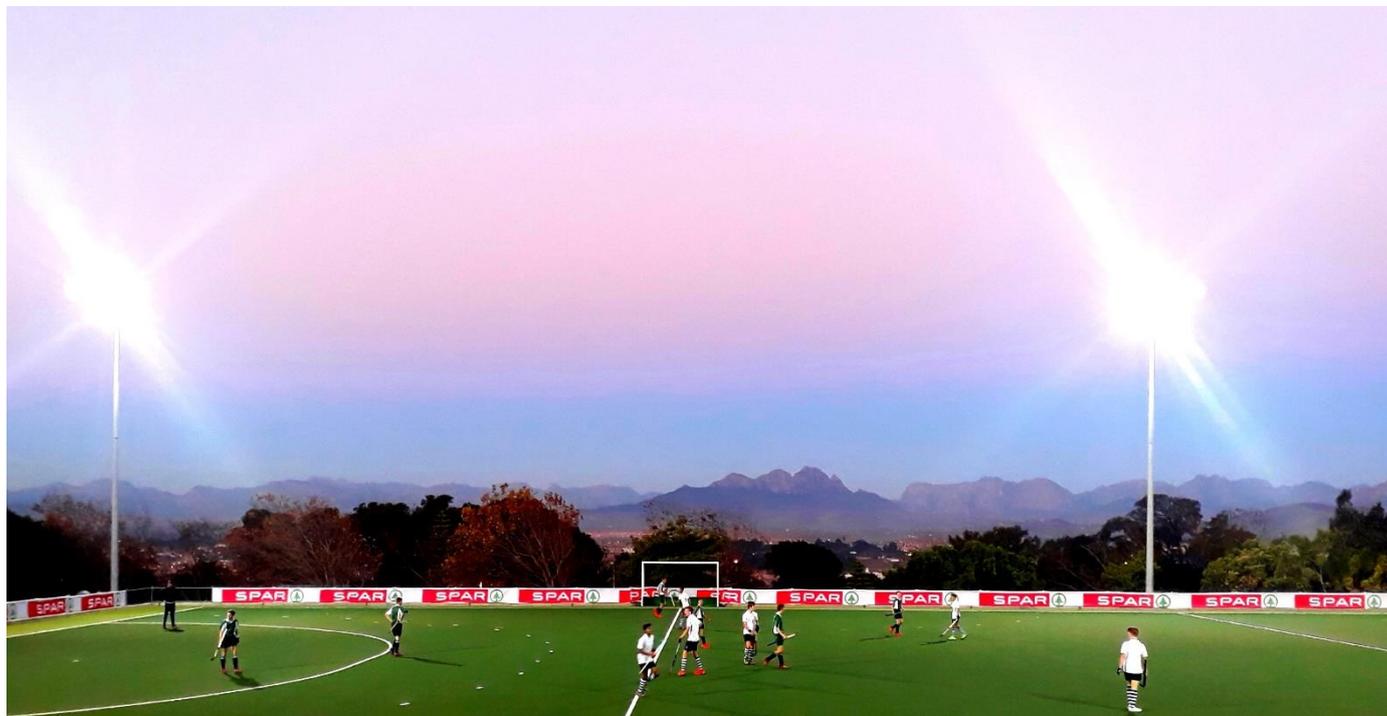


HOCKEY



16 MAY 2019

Many of us spent a lovely afternoon at Fairmont last week, enjoying great hockey, beautiful surroundings and good success. It was the first time we had played on their newly-laid astro, though there was a feeling that it still had some unexpected bumps that caught players out. It makes us appreciate, even more, the very professional job that was done on our own astro.



Talking of astros, we move to the double-astros of the WPC and Rondebosch this weekend. There is a unique atmosphere there with the cosy clubhouse and warm friends. Playing against Rondebosch is always the pinnacle of local hockey as their hockey has been so strong for years. Please turn out to support our boys! The players tell me that they are very aware of the vocal support whilst they are playing on the field.

Apologies must go to Nathan Ansell as he was unfortunately left out of the list of WP-capped boys from SACS in last week's edition. So, heartiest congratulations, too, to Nathan on his success. He celebrated with two goals against Fairburn, and here they are below:



Below are the match reports from the relevant coaches:

1st XI:

Having beaten Fairmont earlier in the KO Cup earlier in the term, there was an air of confidence, and rightly so, within the group of players. They are playing really good hockey at the moment and were favourites for the game, despite Fairmont beating Wynberg and drawing with Rondebosch earlier in the term.



SACS started brightly and soon became dominant, creating good entry to the final quarter of the pitch and demonstrating passages of play which we had worked on in training. The pressure told and SACS were awarded a penalty corner which **Nathan Ansell** scored low past the keeper's right foot. A Fairmont penalty corner was well dealt with by **Gianluca Virissimo** in the SACS goals and further cleared by the defensive team. Further SACS dominance led to another **Ansell** penalty corner being converted shortly after half time to give SACS a 2-0 lead.

Fairmont caused problems in our defensive pattern but a change in defensive



formation and strategy overcame the main threat. **Luke D'Aguiar** (left) was very good in marshalling the troops through this period and needed the experienced players to step forward to control the game. I was a little disappointed with some of the cheap turnover we gave away, especially after a compounded run of mistakes allowed Fairmont to score.

This really got their tails up and with two simultaneous sin-bins, SACS sat deep to defend and buy time before the return of the players. Good work among the forwards lead to **Dan Opperman** stealing the ball on the blind side of the centre back and carrying it from D to D.



He calmly moved and committed the goal-keeper before rolling back around and burying the ball in the back of the net with a cap earring defender ducking for cover on the line. (collage above)



This effectively put the game to bed. There were just a few minutes of Fairmont pressure to absorb, but it led to nothing and the game was closed out for a 3-1 win for SACS. It was an excellent end to an excellent set of results against a school that wants to be considered in the same bracket at SACS.

2nd XI:

Our aim was to try and control the match better than we did in our previous fixture. We moved the ball around well and were awarded a penalty corner early in the match. The Fairmont keeper made an excellent stick save off a well taken flick. This meant that their keeper was going to make it difficult for us to score.

Our ball possession was very good, and we kept controlling the match by continually moving the ball into strong attacking zones. As a result of this, we were rewarded with three goals in a few minutes, scored by **Daniel Tukker** x2 and **Devon Young**. This put Fairmont on the back foot. We finished off a very good first half in a strong position.

In the second half Fairmont changed their tactics to disrupt us. They were trying to press us to one side of the field. Even though we did not control the match as we might have liked to, we created many penalty corners and field scoring opportunities. These opportunities were not converted and seemed to frustrate us slightly. We started to run with the ball too much and this created more turnover scenarios in favour of Fairmont.

For the last few minutes of the match they had more breakaway opportunities, but these were dealt with effectively by our defence and our goalkeeper **Greg Hoyle** who kept a clean sheet for the team. All-round, the team played well and deserved the 3-0 victory.

3rd XI:

The gents of the Thirds were in good spirits after a well-fought comeback last week. Buoyed by the fact that what was being practised actually worked in a match, the gents adopted a fantastic mind-set in the week's drills. They were also acutely aware that they would be playing Brackenfell **1st XI** that coming weekend.

The match started off at a manic pace, with Brackenfell getting the better of us in the first half by two goals to one. As coach, I've tried to play the gents in various positions as players often get 'stuck' into a role for the majority of their school career. The shake-up worked really well and **Reuben Allies** did a fantastic job of fetching the ball as a low-hanging striker. He and **Benjamin Shirk** set up **Bevan Alperstein's** goal in what was, so far, one of the plays of the season for us up the right hand side.

Reilly Parker did a great job as right link, being able to defend and carry on the attack started by **Kai Planting**. Ben worked tirelessly throughout the match and has been a strong forward all season thus far. The combined efforts of the squad saw us not concede in the second half and come back, once again. **Thomas Russell** did a superb job at the back, filling in for **Nicholas Findlay** (who was playing for the seconds). The 4-2 score-line showed a team that worked really hard to iron out a shaky first half. I just hope we can start as strongly as we seem to finish this week against Rondebosch.



4th XI:

Saturday 11th May saw us playing Brackenfell seconds on our home astro.

After the disappointing result last week, we picked up our game and produced a much better performance as far as skills and structure were concerned. However the pace of play was so slow and the opposition not quite as strong as we expected!

SACS dominated the match and had many scoring opportunities. Many were wasted through skills that let us down and everyone trying to get on the score-sheet. **Thomas Neff scored** two goals as did **Ben Rootman**. The other two goals were scored by **Tanashe Dandara** and **Keiron Horsford**.

Brackenfell managed to score from the only short corner they had in the game.

My appreciation goes out to the Muslim boys who played, despite fasting for Ramadan.

There were many positives to build on for next time. Well done!

Final score 6 – 1 to SACS.

5th XI:

The U19E team came up against a relatively-unknown Tygerberg team last week. The match was tightly contested within the opening minutes. Both teams came close to scoring, but neither could break the deadlock.

After a very energetic first half, the teams went in 0-0. The boys continued their impressive fighting spirit in the early stages of the second half. Their efforts were instantly rewarded with a goal from **Raul**. SACS's quality and fitness began to overshadow the opponents and soon after found themselves 3-0 up.

The game eventually finished with a slick short corner move and finish between **Rick Woodborn** and **Keegan Ozman**, helping the boys to a comfortable 4-0 win.

U16A:

The U16As were very wary of the challenge of playing away from home against an ever-improving Fairmont side. For the first ten minutes of the encounter the game was fairly even as our numerous D-entries were well

watched over by the Fairmont side. Goalkeeper, **Tom Brocklehurst** also had to be called upon within this turbulent time to make a few crucial saves.

After a goalless first quarter, the proverbial floodgates opened up and we entered their D at will, with flashy moments of passing and individual skills. A special mention must go to striker, **Amar Shah Khan** who, whilst fasting, was able to score 4 cracking goals. The remaining three goals were scored by **Matthew May**, **Mike McGaw** and **James Royden-Turner**. SACS won the fixture 7-0.



On behalf of SACS and the U16A side, we'd like to wish all Muslim families a fulfilling Ramadan.

U16B:

On Thursday last week the 9th May the u16B side played against Fairmont in a match that proved to be a really good test of the boys' will to keep going.

The evening started off cold and by no means did it get any warmer as the mist rolled over the astro. However, this did not mean that tensions were not heated and after the first half Fairmont had the advantage over the SACS boys by 1 goal to nil. Did the boys give up? Not even in the slightest.

The second half was dominated by the SACS u16s as they hassled their opponents, forcing their keeper to make an uncountable number of saves. The persistence paid off as **Kellan Mossner** scored a brilliant goal to level things up. The game would end in a draw and with the boys slightly disappointed. They knew they had had more than five opportunities to have taken the win.

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U16C:

The SACS u16C team travelled to Fairmont to play the Fairmont u16B team. The majority of the SACS players had never played Fairmont before and, prior to the game, there was a lack of focus and concentration on the task at hand.

It is very dangerous to underestimate any opponent. As history has shown, it isn't difficult for a highly-motivated underdog to take on a favourite and beat them. A very determined Fairmont team scored the opening goal of the match. SACS soon gained respect for the opponent and took the game far more seriously.

With no reserves on the bench due to other sporting commitments and Ramadan, the SACS team had to dig deep to gain ascendancy over Fairmont. With resolute defence and great attacking and interlinking play between the links and the forwards, SACS came away with a 5-2 win.

All the goals were scored by **Saul Alperstein**. The team also acquired good experience in terms of never underestimating their opponent.

U15A:

A tough test awaited the boys on a hot Friday afternoon out in the northern suburbs. Fairmont, who have certainly upped their hockey quality in recent years, were never going to be a walk-over. They're



a team that work hard, are technically diligent and our boys knew that a good performance was needed.

The tempo of the game was slow from the start, contributing factors such as the heat playing a huge part in this. SACS kept attacking, creating numerous opportunities, but their GK was in fine form. The deadlock was

eventually broken through a scrappy short-corner goal after an initial good save from the GK. One goal (Joshua Roux: below) quickly brought two, which then followed with a third and SACS headed into the half-time team talk 3-0 up.

The theme for the second half was to be a bit more selfless, by especially creating width. Fairmont certainly rocked up in the second half and put our boys under some pressure, but this was dealt with nicely by our defenders. Another great GK display kept the second half to a mere 1-0 win to SACS, through **Chase Coffee**.



This entailed an overall 4-0 win and fourth in a row for the boys. The biggest clash awaits this weekend versus Rondebosch, and the boys are ready.

U14A:

Fairmont started the match with a full assault on the SACS goal and it was only due to three fantastic saves by **Rogan Stirk** that the scoreboard stayed level for the first five minutes. SACS then found their passing game and were soon

two goals up thanks to **Rowan Davis** (see collage below). The game was then back in SACS' control, with the SACS press keeping Fairmont on the back-foot.



Two more goals followed from the relentless **Davis** after good build up play from the links. **Matt Lowe** finished off a good play and the end of the half to leave the scoreboard at 5 – 0 at the break. The second half continued in much the same way until a poorly-thrown overhead from SACS let a Fairmont striker into the circle for an easy put-away.



A short while later another blunder in the SACS midfield saw Fairmont run the length of the field on the counter-attack and again have an easy finish. **Josh Opperman** retaliated and scored two quick goals, the second being an impressive strike from the top of the circle after another trademark

ghosting run through the Fairmont midfield.

Not one for being left off the scoreboard for too long, **Rowan Davis** (below) finished the match off with a well-manoeuvred run along the circle, followed by a smashing backhand that nearly decapitated the Fairmont keeper! The final score of 8 – 2 against the team lying second in the U14 Premier League has kept the SACS team firmly on top of the table.





Photo: Gregg Clark

U14B:

SACS next fixture was up in Durbanville. The U14 B team were up against Fairmont High School on Thursday afternoon. Fairmont, being a good up and coming school in hockey, are always unpredictable and SACS needed not to be complacent in this game in order to put a good performance.

After the long drive up, the players changed into their kit in the unfamiliar surroundings of Fairmont. The lads were ready to get to the game underway after a good warm-up.

SACS showed their dominance by getting their first short corner off a foot in the D, after good attacking play down the left channel. The push and stop was great, but the shot took a while to take place and the ball was deflected out. SACS continued to get penalty corners and unfortunately could not score. The boys had about 6 in the first 10 minutes!

Fairmont started to use their strength which were their players down the middle of the field. However, **Nic Kenny** and **Ryan Dawson** did well to keep them from coming down the middle channel. SACS kept going down Fairmont's middle channel and were punished for it. Fairmont then scored off a break-down in play in the middle of the field. Fairmont then attacked down the right hand side channel and managed to get the ball into the D, to then score a far-post tap in. The first half ended 1-0 up to Fairmont.

After the frustrating first half, the boys were ready to come back into the game. Five minutes into the half, **Leseli Martel** scored an excellent backhand deflection to get the scores level. The ball was played by **Shuaib Sulaiman** with a great assist. SACS continued to attack and were playing great hockey by passing and moving into space.

Shuaib Sulaiman got on the score sheet by dribbling down the right channel to then score off a shot from a tight angle. Another goal came when SACS attacked down their left channel. The shot was then taken by **Luke Hoffman** and saved by the Fairmont keeper. The ball then fell next to **Caelen Bright** who then hit a tomahawk into the back board of the goals to make the score 3-1 to SACS. SACS then scored again when **Shuaib Sulaiman** showed excellent control to stop a bouncing ball on the far post and to then slot the ball into the net.

The score stayed 4-1 to SACS. The boys did really well to come back from 1-0 down. **Leseli Martel** had a great game and received the Man of the Match award. **Tom Klusener and Shuaib Sulaiman** also had great games.

U14C:

On Thursday afternoon our U14C hockey team took to the turf with much excitement and a few nerves. We knew we were up against some tough competition in Fairmont, but we also hoped that this game would be our first proper victory of the season so far.

Within the first few minutes of the game we were on the attack and spent much of the first half putting our opposition under quite a bit of pressure. We missed a few opportunities to score a goal but, by the end of the first half, the boys were incredibly motivated to put a number on the score board.

We started off with a strong second half and eventually managed to get a goal. The goal was scored by **Jaden Lesch** and the team were ecstatic! Unfortunately we missed a few opportunities to score a few more, and so the team as a whole have their work cut out for them in the coming weeks in terms of improving their "finish" in their D.

All in all though, we are very proud of our team for winning their first game of the season and for exhibiting great sportsmanship and skill on the field. We look forward to many more wins this season!

U14D:

The U14D team played against a mixed team from Brakenfell High School – with players from both their U14B and U16A teams taking to the pitch during the game.

The game started with the ball quickly moving into our half. **Alex Moon** did a great job of clearing the ball from our "D" and **Jaden Lloyd** sent it up the centre to our forwards where **Nicholas Mackay** attempted to score. During

the first half we took a couple of shots at the goal, but their U16A keeper didn't let any balls through.

The second half saw some good play on our part, with some strong passing by **Cuan Ugarchund** and **Ephraim Rethman**, as well as consistent goal-keeping by **Jack Gee**. The Brackenfell team turned up the heat and there was a lot more play in our half. We managed to get the ball up to their end of the pitch and **David te Roller** made an excellent attempt to score, but their keeper saved this shot too.

With eight minutes left in the second half, Brackenfell was successful in their shot at goal, 1-0, and this remained the final score for the game. The team played particularly well in the final minutes and there was a sense of optimism, even though they had faced tough opposition. **Michael Willig** can be thanked for his field tactics which gave the boys a structure to play with. We look forward to the upcoming fixture against Rondebosch this weekend.

SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION!

We'll make it easy this week. Guess where the ball is in this photo and we will reveal the answer next week.



1sts	Fairmont	3-1
2nds	Fairmont	3-0
3rds	Brackenfell 1sts	4-2
4ths	Brackenfell 2nd	6-1
5ths	Tygerberg	4-0
16A	Fairmont	7-0
16B	Fairmont	1-1
16C	Fairmont	5-2
16D	Brackenfell A	1-5
15A	Fairmont	4-0
14A	Fairmont	8-2
14B	Fairmont	4-1
14C	Fairmont	1-0
14D	Brackenfell A	0-1



SACS HOCKEY

DATE: 17 - 18 May

TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	FIELD	DAY	TIME	
U19A	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Friday	19:35	
U19B	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Friday	18:30	
U19C	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Friday	18:30	
U19D	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Saturday	10:00	
U19E	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Saturday	09:00	
U16A	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Friday	17:30	
U15A	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Friday	16:30	
U16B	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Friday	15:30	
U16C	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Friday	17:30	
U16D	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Saturday	10:00	
U16E						
U14A	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC A	Wed	16:45	
U14B	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Friday	15:30	
U14C	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Friday	16:30	
U14D	RBHS	WPCC	WPCC B	Saturday	08:00	