



# HOCKEY



**9 August 2019**



*Happiness is a goal against Rondebosch*

*(Photo: Alex Lategan)*

**On a bitterly cold evening last Friday, we took on our nemesis, Rondebosch. The weather was cold, but the competition was certainly hot. The two schools are very evenly-matched in terms of ability and results, and this was evident throughout the weekend.**

**Our U14A and U16A kept their unbeaten records in the local hockey fixtures and, despite being so successful, still value every goal scored (as evidenced in the above 16A photo).**



**Top Schools U16 Hockey Tournament.**  
Brought to you by FNB  
Paarl Gimnasium

The Top Schools U16 Hockey Tournament brought to you by FNB takes place over the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th of August at Paarl Gimnasium.

Join us as we celebrate the best in schoolboy hockey with an exciting line up of teams.

You can watch every game on [School Sport LIVE](#). Tune into our channels on [Youtube](#) and [Facebook](#).

[View All the Games](#)

**This weekend, being a long weekend, is free of fixtures. However, our U16A team is playing in a national festival at Paarl Gym. They have two astros side by side, and there is always a wonderful family atmosphere there. It's well-worth a visit.**

**The following weekend has us playing *at home*. The initial plan was for us to play at Wynberg but, because of renovations at their astro complex, all the matches have been moved to SACS. This is obviously great for our Matrics to play their last hockey match as a home match.**

Please do come and support, and also thank, the Matrics for their years of dedicated service to the school.

Below are the match reports of the various coaches:

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI:

Having had a draw last term which felt like a loss, the team were desperate to also win last Friday, not only to make up for the draw but to get the second half of the season back on track after the PRG and Bishops losses.

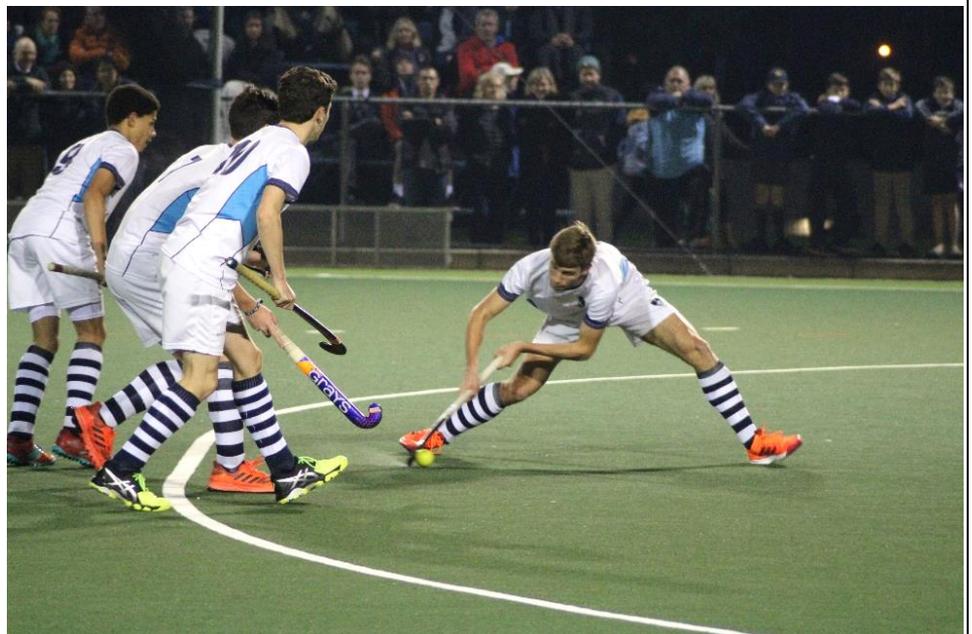


SACS started brightly and, despite having two penalty corners in the first quarter, were unable to break the deadlock. The build-up play at times was exceptional and all that was lacking was a killer finish. We absorbed a little more pressure

at the start of the second half and a controversial PC against us saw RBHS score low past GK Virrisimo's right kicker.

The team continued to apply pressure and identified a way to get out and exploit the attritional RBHS press. **Sam**

**Gildenhuys** and **Daniel Opperman** were outstanding in the midfield; **Tom van Niekerk** in defence and getting the ball moving forward was equal and better than anything that RBHS had. **Kai Greig** created nice space when on the ball and **Nathan Ansell** was as



calm as ever, out-letting and mopping up pieces. However, more chances were left out of the goals and deep in the third quarter RBHS scored again, this time through some soft defending on our left baseline.

Even though, with the chances SACS created, this should not have been the final end to the game and good work from **Sam Gildenhuis** from a rebound off a PC, saw him square the ball across the front of goals for **Chris McHardy** to tap home (right). Game on! However, further PC chances went a begging (two goal line clearances) as well as other circle entries, but the game ended with SACS 1-2 down.



This was a deep loss for the players to pick themselves up from with even the RBHS coaching staff

admitting after the game that they had 'got away with one'. This epitomises schoolboy sport though and, although the finishing may be lacking, the team as a whole can be very proud of how they play this game, both in terms of technical build up and defending, as well as temperament and attitude.

Well done to **Ryan Johnson** for making his 1st XI debut. I am proud of all the players and hope that the final game of the season (at home - please note) will be a fitting result for this team to sign off with.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI:



The match was played at very high tempo as both teams were determined to win after our earlier encounter was a 1-1 draw. Rondebosch play a high pressing game and it was important that we keep possession for longer periods of time to negate the press. To do that we had to keep possession and play mini games and transfer the pressure in their own half. Here we could try to play our brand of hockey

and transfer the pressure on to their defence. We handled the press well but unfortunately we did not keep possession for long enough periods due to being over excited to score a goal but needed to show a lot more patience in our build up play. Rondebosch scored off a very unusual penalty corner. Our defence did not respond well to the change and we conceded a goal.

The second half we showed a lot more patience in our build up but unfortunately got caught out by a similar penalty corner and now were two goals behind. We had a lot of catching up to do and not much time left. Pushing players higher would leave us at a risk of conceding a goal and having no chance of a comeback. It felt as if the match had picked up another



gear. We created many chances towards the end of the match but unfortunately we could not convert any of our chances. The team played well and were disappointed with the loss, especially on home soil.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> XI:**

Coming off the back of a convincing win gave the gentlemen a lot of courage going into the Rondebosch game. At practice there were mixed emotions as the matrices slowly realised they only had a few practices left with their team mates. There was a desire to have fun, which at times led to a lack of concentration.

The match started off very well, with the SACS men sticking to the plan of man-marking and doing a very good job of closing down the hot-line ball Rondebosch were keen on sending into the circle. Their high-pressing defence was nullified by some very hard-working forwards. **Liam Gildenhuis** had a particularly good match as his work rate soared. He played a very good defensive role as an attacker and was quick to run into space and be on the receiving end of some wonderful build-up play from the links.

The first half ended as a stalemate and we had Rondebosch dazed and confused. During the second half, the team were composed and steadily worked on retaining possession and using it to mount an attack. The gents generated a fair few chances near the Rondebosch goal mouth, but a lack of finishing at times allowed chances to slip through as well as our grip on the match. As Rondebosch scored, we levelled matters, our only goal coming

from a very well-worked short corner. However, a bizarre touch on a crash-ball in from Rondebosch led to another goal and the self-belief started to drain. This is when some players shifted their attention from teamwork to trying to dribble a bit too much and 'save the day' themselves. The gents lost their heads a bit and marking became sloppy as tired legs and minds played their part.

Rondebosch scored another goal through some awkward defensive mishaps and a sloppy clearance. **Ethan Fowler** had an outstanding day in goals and made the scoreline a far more even reflection of the teamwork on the day. I cannot fault the gents from playing some outstanding hockey and giving it their all. One can see the hard work and determination and the Thirds can be proud of an improved performance against difficult opposition.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> XI:**

In a slightly disappointing encounter where our basics were really not good enough, SACS struggled to make any leeway into the Bosch circle.

The lads were very competitive and tried very hard throughout, however we were not good enough on the day and conceded two fairly soft goals in the second half to lose the match 0 – 2.

**Christopher Naidoo** once again was a pillar of strength in our goals.

Hopefully we can improve in all areas for our next fixture against Wynberg in a week's time.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> XI:**

SACS U19Es came up against a relatively strong Rondebosch team on Saturday. Despite SACS coming into this game with a good run of form, they however couldn't stop a rampant Rondebosch side.

SACS held their own in the early stages of the game with a few good opportunities but failed to convert. Rondebosch were quick in transitions and swiftly navigated their way through SACS's defence. SACS could not hold out their efficient attack and found themselves 2-0 down at half time.

Despite a brave showing from SACS in the first half, Rondebosch started to assert their dominance on the match. SACS went a further 2 goals down without reply midway through the second half.

Fatigue set in despite a valiant effort from the SACS boys, with the eventual score reading 5-0 to Rondebosch.

## **16B:**

On Friday 2 August the u16 B boys took on their biggest challenge of the season so far: Rondebosch Boys. In the term prior, the SACS boys lost narrowly 1-0 in an epic encounter where the results just never went our way. This just gave the boys more drive to come out firing.

Within the first 5 minutes **Jadon Peterson** had run down the left hand side and slotted the ball in the back of the goals. Only a few moments later **Reece Alperstein** made a spectacular run after picking up the ball almost on the half way line and using his crazy speed to score a sublime goal to put the SACS boys 2 ahead. The first half ended 2-0 with the boys knowing that it did not mean we were in the clear, but had the advantage.

The start of the second half was all about the opposition as they put the boys under a lot of pressure straight out of the gates. This pressure eventually resulted in them scoring and feeling like they may be back in the game. Their joy was shortly lived as an incredible ball across the goals by **Jadon Peterson** was athletically stopped by **Kaden Soloman** at the far post and finished clinically by **Michael Jennings**.

This play pretty much concluded the game with a sound performance by the SACS lads and an amazing start to the weekend, leaving all players, parents and the coach with big smiles.

## **16C:**

The SACS u16C team put in two good practice sessions last week in the build up to the Rondebosch fixture on Friday. SACS did not have a good start and, unfortunately, within the first 10 minutes SACS leaked two goals, one being from a poor clearance by SACS which resulted in a double turnover and an easy goal for Rondebosch.

SACS managed to keep their heads up and began to defend exceptionally well, giving Rondebosch no room to pass, or for their attackers to run into space. With this, SACS gained a number of turn overs and created some good attacking opportunities which placed Rondebosch under further pressure. Unfortunately, the opportunities were never converted into goals and Rondebosch were still ahead 2-0 at half-time.



SACS kept up their tight defence and continuously put pressure on Rondebosch and again SACS created good opportunities for themselves. Good defence in the Rondebosch D saw them turn over the SACS attack and they managed to spread the ball up the length of the field and score their third goal, this seemed to break the morale for SACS as they were practically on the verge of scoring.

SACS eventually went down 4-0. If the opportunities that were created were converted into goals, the end score would have been a different story all together.

### **16D:**

On Friday afternoon we faced Rondebosch on their home turf. This time it was their U15B team and we knew they would be a strong opposition. It turned out to be a good match for us, even though we lost.

Rondebosch dominated play in the first half and we conceded two soft goals, a banger off a short corner and a high flying ball into the goals. Despite the game being so strongly against us, our SACS boys played well. During the practices in the week we worked on defending against a strong press and moving the ball up field. I was proud to see the boys put this into practice in the match and not let Rondebosch run over us.

In the second half SACS picked up this positive momentum and we took the game to Rondebosch. The boys played well as a team and we got in a few scoring attempts. On the other end goal keeper, **Zaeem Hamdulay**, and the defence dealt with some flying balls, and did very well to keep Rondebosch from scoring. The second half remained goalless.

We may have lost this game, but the way the boys played is a lot more important. They played hard, putting everything on the line for the team. They played with courage and determination, and can be very proud of their efforts. I look forward to see them play like this again next week when we face Wynberg in what should be a very thrilling match.

### **16E:**

The U16Es came up against a skilful RBHS U15C team. We did well to hold our own in the first half and were 0-2 down at half time. Unfortunately the opposition had much more possession of the ball in the second half and more chances at goals. We conceded a further 4 goals to lose the game 0-6.

Our defence needs to work on taking 16s as the ball often went straight to a RBHS player, putting us under enormous pressure. We had a few chances to

score but could not convert. **Thami Zatu** captained the team well and led by example.

### 15A:

With revenge on the team's mind after their first SACS-Bosch fixture, the team came into the game focused, determined, confident and ready to go. The game began at a high tempo and certainly one that was different to previous games.



Both SACS and Rondebosch had numerous opportunities, but the deadlock was broken through a well put away striker's goal from **Louis Laureys** and the boys went into the halftime break with a 1-0 lead. They had a breather after

doing tons of running in the first half and refocused.

The beginning of the second half was an even affair and Rondebosch then pushed on and **Matthew Thompson** had to make numerous saves to keep the scoreline at 1-0. The pressure eventually paid off with a short-corner goal making the score 1-1.



BORN IN CAPE TOWN · SOUTH AFRICA  
**BOOTLEGGERS**<sup>®</sup>  
— COFFEE COMPANY —

# R18 COFFEE

EVERY DAY TILL 08H30



Heartbreak occurred with just a few minutes left when Rondebosch snuck another goal and the game ended 2-1 to Rondebosch. The boys can hold their heads up high and be proud of such a mature performance. We kick on to our final fixture of the season!

### 14A:

The match between the U14A sides was a scrappy affair with SACS finding it difficult to move the ball around the field due to consistent and effective disruptive play by Rondebosch. The tactic by Rondebosch was rewarded when on a breakaway they scored the opening goal. The first half ended with Rondebosch ahead and SACS scratching their heads as how to break through. The second half continued in the same manner with some of the SACS players (and parents)



temperaments being tested as Rondebosch set up a solid defence. Mid-way through the second half **Mike Cowen** took control of the midfield and started finding SACS players in free space which opened up the match. This led to more shots on target and eventually a penalty corner which **Rowan Davis** neatly slotted to level the match. With the ice broken the SACS onslaught on the Rondebosch goal was relentless but to no avail. **Josh**

**Opperman** came close with a daring run and shot while two more SACS penalty corners were left unconverted to leave the match level at 1 - 1 at full time.

### 14C:

On Friday afternoon, our U14C hockey team played against Rondebosch at WPCC and the match proved to be our best game yet. The boys trained hard in practice last week and it paid off.

From the first whistle, our boys dominated on the field, passing the ball beautifully, putting great thought into every move and really showing some team work that we have yet to see this season. After getting quite a few chances to score and unfortunately missing them, **Jayden Lloyd** scored a fantastic goal! Throughout the course of the game, our boys unfortunately

missed a few more opportunities to increase the number on the score board and so short corners and finishing will be something that the boys focus on in the next two weeks before our match against Wynberg. Kabelo, Michael and Miss Bodenstein are extremely proud of the boys for their performance this week and for the growth the boys have shown.

#### **14D:**

The U14Ds took to the field on Saturday morning in what was arguably their most exciting match this season. After some back and forth and an attack by Rondebosh, **Cuan Ugarchund** cleared the ball up field to **Ben Abrahams** who made an attempt at goals. Unfortunately this was saved by their keeper. In the minutes that followed the team won possession once again and carried the ball into Rondebosch's half where **Brett James** scored a spectacular shot in the top corner of the net to take us into the lead, 1-0. Soon after there was a show of brilliant team-work from **Ben Abrahams, Nathan Pillay** and **Brett James** who scored a second goal, 2-0. As the end of the first half drew near, **Malik Jamie** made a great pass on the right up to **Jamie Smit** who made an unsuccessful attempt at goal, but **Daniel Luckhoff** managed to keep the ball up field and passed back to **Jamie** who then added another goal to our tally, 3-0.

In the second half the team maintained their focus and there was some solid defence by **Alex Moon, Strato Komninos, James McQueen** and **Kit Dore**. We defended a short corner and sent the ball back up field where there were a number of attempts at goal, unfortunately unsuccessful. In the final minutes there was another series of beautiful passes: **David Wepener** to **Nathan Pillay** to **Jamie Smit** to **Brett James** who scored his third goal of the match, 3-0. And a great setup for **David te Roller** who scored a final shot on target to win the match 5-0. Our D's did well to beat a largely C-team heavy opposition and can be very proud of the way they came together to win as a team.

**The fixtures for the Wynberg matches are not yet available. They will be sent out at a later stage.**