



HOCKEY



23 APRIL 2019



Our first full weekend of fixtures was certainly a successful one! There was, for quite a long time, the chance of another “shut-out” (as the Americans call it) as our defenders and goalies kept the opposition at bay. A cursory glance at the results at the end of the newsletter will give you the idea.

Most matches were away at Pinelands High, a place where many of our boys had not played before. There were two distinct sides to the afternoon: sides either won easily and handsomely, or they had to battle hard for close wins. The U16A, in particular, had to show great character as Pinelands hammered away at our one-goal lead.

This upcoming weekend is against DF Malan, in the main, and we hope and trust that you will be here supporting your sons.

In terms of photos for the newsletter, I am limited in how many I can take on my own. I am therefore very happy to be sent photos from other matches, or even ones where I was present. The matches under floodlight are notoriously tough to photograph, so any help would be appreciated. I will certainly credit photographers of published pics. I can be reached at wilsonmp@sacollege.org.ze.

Below are the match reports from the coaches:

1st XI:

It is a funny atmosphere arriving at 1:30pm for a league game in Western Province. The usual Friday evening lights was reserved for the U16 age groups this week and the serene, quiet and placid feeling at the pitch gave the team an extra mental challenge to overcome.



Pinelands played a well-structured zonal defence and looked to use their key players on offence. SACS absorbed the early pressure well, denying Pinelands any meaningful circle entries and, as the first quarter grew in length, SACS started to assert their dominance by moving the ball smartly out of contact areas and

spreading the Pinelands defence. **Chris Breetzke** broke the deadlock with finishing at the second post to tap home after good build up play.

Shortly into the second quarter, **Daniel Opperman** finished to set the score 2-0 to SACS. SACS had to play with men short due to the sin bin, but finally put the game to bed with an **Ansell** hard and low penalty corner to the keeper's right. Final score 3-0 SACS.



This was a difficult Pinelands team to beat and I am proud of the team in how they came through the test without real reason to be concerned.



Structure was good, both on offense and defence, and decision-making is continually improving. Players are executing skills well and we will take this positivity into the KO Cup on the weekend of the 27th April.

2nd XI:

After our one-all draw against Pinelands during our tour to York High, the team were determined to handle certain game situations more maturely. Pinelands play a waiting game and try to keep the score down for as long as possible and then create a few chances later in the match.



For the early part of the match we seemed to be pushed back into our own half and playing with some caution and hesitation. Our aim was also to score first and early to put winning pressure on them as we had to come from behind in the York

Fixture.

A very clinical reverse stick from **Ethan Abrahams** put us ahead and reduced the pressure slightly. In the second half we seemed to have a bit more time and space on the ball. We made more correct decisions in when to eliminate the opposition by passing the ball or taking the opposition on and eliminating

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the player. **Matthew Beck** gave us a valuable second goal which put them on the back foot. This was followed by a period of many failed opportunities to score more goals. We scored our third goal off a penalty corner variation and it was well executed by **Daniel Tukker**. A very pleasing result: well done to the team.

3rd XI:

The first match the third team played was against Rondebosch, an opponent often held in high-regard. A good warm up put the Thirds into a good head-space and emphasised how off-pitch attitude translates into a good on-pitch performance! The gentlemen were well-prepared and were put to the test early on with some shaky defensive passing.

However, playing it slowly and methodically out of the defence has been encouraged, and with each player not rushing his passes, more time on the ball does at times create more pressure. **Amjad Khan** had a great game on the left flank and **Michael Willig** was a commanding centre presence.

Experimenting with a 4-4-2 formation did lead to some confusion and bunching in midfield. However, **Liam Gildenhuis** and **Harrison Fowles** soon got used to their respective roles and communicated well, especially later into the game. Many players haven't played in their current positions as most in the team have been links in the past.

The boys stepped up well and found space and time on the ball to create two wonderful goals. **Ben Shirk and Riley Parker** both got on the scorecard. The third, and final, goal was classified as an own-goal. **Philippe Hartgers** must be commended on a fine display up front in creating many opportunities.

The end result was against a weaker Rondebosch team, but take nothing away from a solid win. The team is showing great potential in practice and are a very positive and happy bunch to work with.

4th XI:

We played a friendly match against RBHS because of the cancellation of our Paarl Boys' fixture.

With very little preparation leading up to this match, we expected to be a bit rusty... and we were.

The first half was fairly even with a number of botched opportunities on both ends of the field. The half-time talk seemed to sink in and the team realised what was meant by congesting the centre of the field in defence and our

press was very effective in the second half. We dominated this half and still battled to convert a number of short corners. This was unsurprising as we had only practised this for a short period in one of our two practices.

Eventually **Kieran Horsford** managed to slap the ball in at pace past the keeper's right foot in a well-taken shot. Hopefully this will happen more regularly in the future games.

There are many people in this squad with great potential to improve, with the required dedication.

Final result saw SACS 4ths win 1 - 0.

5th XI:

The 5ths also played a friendly match against RBHS because of the cancellation of our Paarl Boys' fixture.

With very little preparation leading up to this match, and once again many boys making themselves unavailable, we went into this match a little undercooked.

The first half was fairly even with a number of botched opportunities on both ends of the field. This was a fairly scrappy game and the SACS men gave all they had, which was not great as far as fitness was concerned! Something to work on?

Eventually, after dominating for most of the game, **Thomas Neff** managed to convert a short corner with a well-taken shot.

There are many people in this squad with the potential to improve, if they are prepared to work at it.

Final result saw SACS 5ths win 1 - 0.

U16A:

The u16a were given the opportunity to play under lights against a very physical and fast Pinelands side. It is with great regret that I admit that the side underestimated Pinelands, and this showed as we were unable to maintain full control of the game.



Pinelands utilized their size and speed to break down our passing in the midfield and their forwards put a lot of pressure on our defenders when we were trying to outlet. They also kept our attack at bay with the threat of a very dangerous and swift counter attack.



In the fourth and final quarter the game was still very much in the balance, as we only led by one goal. However, it appeared that we finally showed up and started executing our skills, scoring three quick goals to dash any Pinelands' hopes of a comeback. This was largely due to our forwards getting into better positions and putting away the chances that we failed to capitalize on in the first 45 minutes of the game. Special mentions must

Photo: Karen Slater

go to **Israr Fayker** (right) for bagging a well-deserved **hat trick**, as well as **Tom Cowen** for providing stability to our midfield in a crucial part of the fixture.



The old cliché goes, “Win or learn”: thankfully we were able to “Win AND learn”- a luxury that most teams are never afforded. The boys will most certainly never underestimate their opposition again.

Happy Easter/ long weekend to our hockey families and enjoy the short break - lots to be done when we get back!

Goal scorers: **Israr Fayker** x3, **Ryan Silberbauer**.

U16C:

The u16 C squad has had a less-rushed start to the season than in the past where there has been little time to prepare adequately for the first game. Over the past two years that had been against extremely difficult opposition, Paul Roos.

There are a number of hard-working and eager under 16s in the squad this year, all proving their worth, while vying to make the final team.

There was a fun warm-up game against the u16D team where the Cs really struggled to break down the u16 D's defence in the first half. Once they started finding gaps in the defence and broke it down, the confidence was on a high and the squad came away with a 10 - 0 victory.

The team had two good practices in the week, one of them being driven by players. This gives the players the opportunity to see where they went wrong on the weekend. They can look and think about drills that may work to improve the skills and then practise them.

This has been a pleasant break from an authoritarian style of coaching. It also allows the players to become leaders and take initiative during the practice. The fixture over the weekend was against Jan van Riebeeck. This was the first fixture against this opponent for many of the players and for the opposing team it was many of their players' first time ever playing on an AstroTurf.



There was less pressure on the SACS players to perform and it became more of a game that inspired mentoring from the SACS players towards the first-time players for Jan van Riebeeck. The u16c team goal-keeper, **Liam Dreyer** was also keeping goals for the first time and he filled in for the Jan van Riebeeck goal keeper in the second half who never arrived.

This was good practise for Liam, facing good attacking play coming from the SACS players. Out of 10 shots at goal, he only conceded 5, which was impressive for his first outing as a goal keeper. SACS u16c squad won 10-0 and during the course of the week the team will be finalised for the rest of the Winter season.

Goal Scorers: **Saul Alperstein, James Sherwood, Uzair Abader, Aiden Vlietman, David Ducray, Michael Jennings x2 and Ra'ees Salie x 3**

U16D:

The U16D team played against Rondebosch U16D on Saturday at home. The game was very evenly-contested and could have gone either way. Unfortunately we lost 1-2. **Mpho Ndlovu** scored our one goal.

Our team is made up of mostly U15s and their youth and inexperience showed in the match through scrappy play. Luckily we were matched with a team of equal strength and they were making as many mistakes (balls on feet, passes not finding players, etc) as we were. The deciding factor in the result was that Rondebosch managed to convert their opportunities to score goals (with a bit of luck) and our attackers struggled to do the same.

This was a good game to start the season with and gives us many things to work on. We will need to work hard as we are likely to face a stronger Rondebosch team in the derby fixtures.

U15A:



Our second round of fixtures came against an always-tricky test, Pinelands, as they are known for having a couple of players that can turn a game on its head, and if this is avoided, a victory would be very possible.

Coming into the game with an emphatic win over Somerset College, the team was up for the challenge and looking for their

next win. After a tough first ten minutes (and the Pinelands GK having an absolute stormer), the deadlock was broken through a well-worked goal. This put the team into the next gear and ended up being 4-0 up going into the second half.

The aim of the half was a 'take everything, give nothing' attitude and this certainly fell into place as soon as the second half whistle blew. The final score was a remarkable 12-0 victory over Pinelands, creating an ever-growing positive atmosphere and mind-set within the team.



U14A:

SACS started the match against Pinelands with purpose and, after 9 minutes, Rowan Davis had scored a hat-trick to put SACS 3 – 0 up. The first half then settled down as Pinelands defended and broke down attacking movements



set up by SACS. At the end of the half **Mike Cowen** and **Dean Carrick** each scored for SACS to end the half 5 – 0 up.

In the second half SACS started stringing together longer pass combinations which led to regular interval of goals being scored. **Rowan Davis** got a fourth goal and then went from scorer to provider as he set up **Dean Carrick** for

two goals and **Abdul-Sataar Allie** for a goal. **Josh Opperman** also got in the mix with a pair of goals from good build-up play and **Matt Low** finished off a cracking shot in the circle which blasted past the Pinelands keeper.



Overall, it was a good performance with a 12 – 0 win that sets the stage for this weekend's tour to Founders Festival in Parktown.

U14B:

The SACS u14 age group is blessed with great depth this year. This showed in the match against Pinelands u14 B side. The first half was called after 19 min and the second half was 20 min long. This was because the difference between the two sides was so great, something which could be a blessing and a curse.

The game plan was to set up quickly on defence and create pressure on Pinelands outletting. In the first half Pinelands struggled to get the ball out their defensive third. SACS intercepted many direct balls through a good defensive setup and made good tackles to set up counter-attacking hockey. Though in the first few minutes of the game there were many opportunities to pass the

ball and move forward, the lads were sucked in to holding on the ball , which then resulted in cramped space in the D and half shots being taken at goal.

SACS then finally scored through **Tom Klusener** with a far post tap in. **Shuaib Suliaman** did a great run using his speed to drive into space and get the pass off to **Tom Klusener**. Thus after goals started to come steadily throughout the half. At 19 min in, the first half was called with SACS ahead 6-0.

The second half was much of the same. SACS dominated, but players were holding on the ball too long. However, SACS played patches of good hockey when players were doing great leads and were passing and moving into space. This created easier goals to score for the players because the ball was not taken into contact. SACS scored 5 goals in the second half to make the final score 11-0. This game was good practice for attacking players to work on their goal scoring in the D and a good learning curve for all players.

Goals Scorers: Tom Klusener 4, Suaib Sulaiman 3, Caelen Bright 1,
Ryan Dawson 1, Jason Coward 1, Leseli Martel 1

U14C:

On Saturday 13 April, our 2019 U14C hockey team arrived bright and early at the Hockey Sports Club in Langa. The boys were keen and enthusiastic to get their first game of the season under way.

Playing against the strong Langa club team, the boys began the game slightly apprehensively, but with much determination. It was very clear in the first half of the game that this was not going to be an easy first game to start the season. Instead, it was potentially one of the toughest games they may play this year. The Langa side displayed some strong hockey skills, and along with some serious fitness, were leading at half time by 3-0.

The squad of 16 boys, led by their coach, **Kabelo Mosothoane**, had a heart to heart at half time and it made all of the difference. Within the first ten minutes of the second half, **Nathan Venter** scored a brilliant goal. This urged the team on and saw them play a much stronger game in the second half. Unfortunately Langa was able to score three more goals in the second half, leaving the score at the end with a 6-1 victory.

Our boys were proud, though, to have put up a good fight and they are aware of the pressure on them as we go forward into the term to improve their skills and their fitness. All in all, a good morning was had by all. We are all looking forward to an exciting and positive season ahead.

U14D:

On Saturday afternoon the U14D team took on a focused squad from The Settlers' High School. Our boys were excited for their first match and this energy, combined with their fitness, served them well.

David te Roller scored the first goal for SACS, to much celebration, but not too long after the Settlers team came back to level the score. The final result was a 1-1 draw.

Jack Gee can be commended for his goal-keeping in his first match in this position. The team has been training hard this week and is looking forward to building on this result in the next fixture.



What do you do if the scaffolding you are using is too low? You raise it in-between chukkas, of course! Well done videographers!

TEAM	OPPONENTS	RESULT
1st	Pinelands	3-0
2 nd	Pinelands	3-0
3 rd	RBHS	3-0
4 ^{tg}	RBHS	1-0
5 th	Bishops	1-0
16A	Pinelands	4-0
16B	Fairburn	3-0
16C	JvR	10-0
16D	RBHS	1-2
15A	Pinelands	12-0
14A	Pinelands	12-0
14B	Pinelands	11-0
14C	Khaya/Langa	1-6
14D	Settlers	1-1

There are no league fixtures this weekend, though the U19, 16 and 14A teams are involved in knockout competitions. Please visit our Facebook page for details.