



# HOCKEY



**10 MAY 2019**

Last weekend's fixtures were mainly against Bishops, a set of fixtures which brings out the very best in our players. Our top three teams in each age-group all went unbeaten, with five wins and five draws – a wonderful achievement! Our U14A team is playing exceptional hockey, to the extent that the Bishops teacher-in-charge said she found herself watching and *enjoying* the way our boys played against her team!

On top of that, we had the news that a record number of SACS players have made WP Teams! In the U16 age-group (below, left), *Tom Brocklehurst, Aiden Fourie, Damian Knott, Matthew May and James Royden-Turner* all received WP caps, whilst in the U18 age-group (below, right), *Daniel Opperman, Jamie Baxter, Luke D'Aguiar, Sam Gildenhuys and Tom van Niekerk* were also capped. Heartiest congratulations to all these young men, as well as to their coaches!



This weekend the majority of the teams travel out to the beautiful campus of Fairmont. Fairmont's hockey is strong, as our First Team found out when they struggled to beat them by one goal in the Knockout Competition recently. Fairmont also have a Wynberg scalp and a draw with Rondebosch to their name, so let's get out to Durbanville to support our young men.

Below are the match reports from the coaches:

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

It was a terrific atmosphere at The Brewery Field last Friday and the hockey was equal to it! Both teams play a free-flowing, attacking brand of hockey, looking to win with the players empowered to find the goals to do so.

A lot of the focus in our preparation had been about connections and outcomes in the final third of the pitch, as we were confident we would get to



that area easily enough. However, both teams defended the first quarter well and the deadlock was only broken in the 2nd quarter by a penalty-corner flick by Bishops talisman which beat the debutant SACS GK **Gianluca Virissimo** into the top corner.

SACS mounted a strong comeback and showed skill under pressure to force their own penalty-corner in the third quarter. **Nate Ansell** flicked down his flicking channel and the ball was kept out of the goal by the post-man, rather than the goalkeeper, with a penalty stroke being awarded as a result. **Daniel Opperman** stepped forward and powered the ball past the keeper's left side to give parity back to the scoreline. (below)



Further exchanges occurred at both ends, SACS trying to build play together, and Bishops going for a more direct route. SACS dominated more controlled circle entries with the forward line making good leads outside of the Bishops defensive shadow. A fast counter from Bishops led to their second goal, smartly played down the left side of the field. However, within two minutes,

SACS had drawn level again through a well-worked training ground move and **Opperman** combined with **Jamie Senekal** who bunted the ball into the bottom corner past the goalkeeper.

I thought it was a fair result on reflection, although SACS probably played the more attractive hockey, and Bishops the more direct hockey. However, it was pulsating and exciting nonetheless, and I was happy that the match gave the supporters plenty to get behind.



We are looking forward to many more Friday nights like that this year!

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

After three weeks of not having a fixture, the team was raring to play. In the first few minutes of the game, we were settling in well. But as the half progressed, we had very little ball possession. With the little ball possession that we had, we managed to get a penalty corner. The Bishops keeper made an excellent save to deny us a goal-scoring opportunity.

For most of the half Bishops did well to create space and made it difficult for us to control the game for longer periods of time. The team however defended well in our 25-yard area.

In the second half we closed off more of Bishops' distribution options. The turning point in our favour was when we had to defend four penalty corners in succession and denied Bishops a scoring opportunity. The team had a renewed drive. We slowly controlled areas of the field and ended the last few minutes putting them under pressure.

It was a tough match to play and we can only benefit from these challenges. The final result was a goalless draw.

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

This past week the team focused on understanding how to use the space of the field and what each of their positions requires of them. These discussions help the team members understand what to expect of each other and to communicate on-pitch effectively.

Newly-appointed captain, **Michael Willig**, stands out as someone who is conscientious both off the field and on it. He did a fantastic job in organising the defence against Bishops. He also scored our first goal with a tight-angled shot to mount a come-back after being 2-0 down. Bishops went 2-0 up after receiving a short corner at the start of the 2nd half, due to one of our players being rather excited and running onto the pitch, rather than staying on the bench. This meant for a few seconds we had 12 men on the field and were quickly penalised!

Michael's strength at the back, along with **Nicholas Findlay's** ability to find space and dribble, helped the team work the ball well from the defence to attack. Both wing-backs showed their fitness as they tore up the sides of the field, but tracked-back too. Three team members were missing due to music commitments in Stellenbosch. The three 4th team players that came up made sure they took their chance to show why they'd been called up and are a few to keep an eye on!

**Chris Naidoo**, in goals, made up for previous blushes by having an outstanding 2nd half, saving three shots in a row in one period of play. **Liam Gildenhuis** made some fantastic passes in midfield, along with **Harrison Fowles**. Such quick passing led to a breakthrough and **Ben Schneider** was taken out by the Bishops keeper. We were then awarded a penalty flick which he converted.

2-2 is how it ended, but errors such as a lack of finishing in the final 3rd of the field and some wayward passing will make the gents feel they should have dominated more and won.

Bring on round two next term!

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

Our first league match against Bishops was a rather scrappy, albeit tightly-contested match.

The first half was fairly even with a number of circle entries at both ends of the field. The half-time score was 0 – 0.

In the second half Bishops took the lead from a penalty corner conversion. We fought back manfully and many opportunities were created in this half. We eventually scored from a very scrappy goal-mouth melee.

The Bishops 3<sup>rd</sup> team goalkeeper, who also played against the 4ths, kept many of our attacks at bay.

Final result saw SACS 4ths draw 1 - 1.

## U16A:

The u16As were faced with big battle on Friday, against an ever-improving Bishops side. Having met them in pre-season and the KO Cup Final, both sides were fairly well acquainted with each other.

SACS got off to a flyer after a brilliant burst down the right baseline from CF **Royden-Turner** was converted with a powerful first-time finish from **Silberbauer** (below).



Bishops struck back almost immediately from a penalty corner making it 1-1. We struggled to play the style of hockey that we have become accustomed to, as Bishops backed off into a deep press, forcing us to make unfamiliar plays.

This resulted in a very cagey battle that could have gone either way in the end. Thankfully **Jadon**

**Petersen's** (right) brace saw us go 3-1 clear as he scored by virtue of getting into the right areas of the D. This did not dissuade Bishops, as they continued to pile on the pressure. They grabbed a late goal in the final quarter to make the game even more nerve-wracking.



However, after a slick short

corner routine, the game was put to bed by captain **Damien Knott** (left), as he sent a drag-flick rocketing into the top right corner of the goals. The back and forth fixture ended in a 4-2 win that we would gladly take over our old rivals.



Goal scorers: **Silberbauer, Petersen x2, Knott.**

### **U16B:**

On Friday 3 May the U16B boys played against Bishops. A stunning sunset set the tone for the evening and lined it up to be an absolute cracker of a game

which, for those who watched, would most definitely agree. The boys started off strongly by dominating position and scoring an early goal through **Rees Alperstein.**

After this though the boys seemed to grow complacent, allowing the opposition to pounce, and pounce they did. Two quick goals really shook the SACS boys and forced them to focus going into the second half.

However the start to the half did not go according to plan, with Bishops scoring a third. Feeling somewhat defeated, the boys kept fighting and through a magnificently-placed overhead from **Daniel Coetzee**, which found **Adrian Strydom** who further crossed to **Kellen Mossner**, his second goal of the game was scored. Time was running out, but the boys weren't done yet and a perfectly-timed run from **Adrian** down the right hand side was picked out by an awesome pass which led to **Rees** again finding the net.

It was a tremendous fight back and a draw which concluded a sensational game of hockey.

### **U16C:**

The u16C team were well aware that their match against Bishops would be their first real challenge of the season. Bishops were well-prepared for the match as well, and were a difficult opponent. The SACS u16Cs showed attacking prowess from the first whistle, with the links working well in the midfield creating excellent opportunities in the D. The Bishops defence were difficult to crack but eventually, with some good attacking opportunities

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coming from the left side, SACS managed to create good ball for **Saul Alperstein** who scored the first goal.

The same strategy was applied throughout the match, by attacking up the left and crossing the ball in for our striker (**Alperstein**) who scored a second goal. Bishops also showed some excellent displays of attacking hockey and our defenders were also put under pressure. There was some excellent defence from **Matthew Johnstone** who also managed to dribble through the Bishops attackers and get the ball away to the SACS links on a number of occasions.

**Liam Dreyer**, who was keeping in only his second game, has showed tremendous improvement over the last few weeks and has worked hard to become a skilled goal-keeper. He proved this by saving three goal-scoring opportunities. The u16C team is showing some really great team work early in the season and they will be looking forward to building on this and carrying the continuity through against Fairmont on Thursday.

SACS won 2-1.

**Saul Alperstein**- 2 goals.

#### **U16D:**

On Saturday morning we played an away game against Bishops who proved to be a very strong opposition. They dominated all areas of the game and our team battled to stop them. This especially exposed gaps in our defence which resulted in two periods of play (late in the first half and early in the second half) where Bishops were able to score 4 goals in the space of 5 minutes each time. The final score was 0-10.

I want to commend the team for not giving up. Instead, they regrouped and continued to play hard until the end. I was happy to see the defenders working on closing gaps later in the game and restricting Bishops to only one goal during the last 15 minutes of the game. It is still early in the season and I believe that, as the players get to know each other and their positions better, they will improve. I see a lot of potential in the side and hope this will show in our results as the season progresses.

## U15A:

In the toughest test of the season to date, the SACS u15A team took on a formidable Bishops team, with a number of their players pushing for a spot in their u16A team. Sacs started on the back foot due to a couple of tricky and speedy players upfront that were causing some damage and numerous short corners. SACS defended the spell with numbers behind the ball and worked on the counter.

The game evened out with both teams having chances and the deadlock was broken by Bishops through a scramble goal in the D after the SACS GK, **Matt Thompson**, initially did well to keep the ball out the goals. This goal fired the home side up and



the equalizer came from a well-worked build up play and calmly finished off by **Chase Coffee** (above right). Halftime 1-1.



The boys were given certain tasks and knew that, if they could execute them, the game was theirs and that's exactly what they did. A well-defended attack by **Ben Elliott-Jones**, involved passing the ball up the field. When the ball was intercepted, **Louis Laureys** hounded the Bishops' defender and earned a free hit just outside the 'D'. **Chase** saw an opportunity to take it quickly and finished with a brilliant back-stick shot into the

bottom right of the goals.

SACS then held out the game for a 2-1 victory over their first southern suburbs rivals.

## U14A:

The SACS U14A match against Bishops was scrappy, with many errors and turnovers on both sides. **Josh Opperman** capitalised on a Bishops mistake in the midfield to hand **Mat Lowe** the opening goal and then later ghosting himself through to put *his* name on the scoreboard.



The SACS penalty corner team was not on target, only converting one from eight PCs in the whole match, but the one that was converted in the first half was a rocket drag-flick from **Rowan Davis (below right)** that left the keeper wondering where the ball had gone. **Abdul-Sataar Allie** finished a well-orchestrated counter-attack at the end of the first half to put SACS 4 – 0 up at the break.



The second half was a similar to the first with **Rogan Stirk** being called into action more in the SACS goals to keep Bishops out. A long range counter attack from the SACS half saw **Rowan Davis** find the back of the net again. **Josh Opperman** then continued his onslaught on the Bishops midfield, setting up **Michael Royden-Turner** for an easy goal and then contributing to two moves that saw **Abdul Sataar Allie** get two more goals for his hat-trick.

The final score of 8 – 0 was flattering for SACS, with room for improvement in the coming weeks.

## U14B:

The u14 SACS B team came into this fixture being rather nervous. Being two players short of the 14 selected (due to flu), the boys knew it would be a heavy feat to win the game with fewer numbers on the bench.

The first half was a frustrating half for SACS. They strung passes together down the outside channels with good attacking play, but were hard-done-by by not being able to put it in the back of the net. SACS also had two short corners but they were well defended by Bishops. Bishops however showed some resilience through "stormy" who created chances through counter attacks. SACS defended well and kept Bishops at bay. Towards the end of the first half SACS held onto the ball for way too long. This resulted in many double turnovers and missed opportunities. The first half ended 0-0 at half time.

The half time message was to be more clinical in the circle and to not hold on the ball. The second half was much better in stages. Players linked well and the game opened up with countless opportunities. SACS finally scored five minutes into the first half through **Luke Hofman**. **Shuaib Sulaiman** received the ball in the right channel and beat a player to then drive down the baseline and give a square pass to **Luke Hofmann**. He slapped the ball in the bottom left corner. The celebration was short lived as Bishops managed to get a short corner by getting a foot from a long pass into the circle. Bishops then scored off a straight hit from top D to make the score 1-1 with 15 minutes to go.

In the final 15 minutes, both teams had the fair number of chances. SACS were extremely lucky when a goal was disallowed because the ball hit the Bishops player's foot before going in the goals. The game was very scrappy because both teams were anxious to get the win.

**Shuaib Sulaiman** stepped up and scored a well-worked goal with 5 minutes to go on the clock, receiving the ball and to then drive the baseline. After the keeper stepped off his line, **Shuaib Sulaiman** the slotted the ball into the goals. The scoreline remained 2-1 to SACS.

## U14C:

On Friday 3 May, our U14C hockey team faced a match against Bishops on the Bishops astro. The team, coached on the day by **Michael Willig**, was very excited before the whistle blew at 14.30. The first half saw an amazing improvement in both the team's skill and movement on the field.

Quite a few members of the team weren't able to play on Friday due to illness, and that saw quite a few of our players moving into positions that they had never played before. However, this didn't stop them and within the first 20

minutes, SACS had scored a goal. **Nathan Venter** and **Jayson Cawood** showed incredible team work as they pushed the ball up the field and together, showing a lot of skill in the D, scored a goal.

Our team goalie was also ill on the day and that meant someone needed to step in. **Alexander Palframan** kitted up as goalie, for the first time in his life, and he showed off some marvellous skill in the goals. He stopped 3 potential goals and his team-mates were very thankful and proud of him! with 6 minutes to go, in the second half, Bishops managed to score and so we ended the game with a 1-1 score.

The team gained a lot of insight from Michael Willig (Grade 11) who spent a lot of time on the day encouraging the boys and teaching them a few last-minute tactics. We are proud of our boys' performances on Friday and, although we ended with a draw, we had a thoroughly enjoyable game. We look forward to next week's match.

#### **U14D:**

On Saturday morning the team headed onto the turf for a cold 8am start for their share of the fixtures against Bishops. In the first five minutes of the game, **Jack Gee** provided some great goal-keeping, defending a short corner against us.

Early in the game the team showed good structure and put the Bishops team under pressure with **Christopher (Kit) Dore** and **Nicholas Mackay** passing up the right side and **David te Roller** providing some solid play in the centre. We missed a shot at goal, followed by a similar attempt by the Bishops team.

With thirteen minutes left of the first half, Bishops put the first points on the board, followed by another two shots on target to end the first half 3-0.

In the second half, Bishops stepped up their game and we felt the pressure with a lot more movement in our half. A number of penalty corners were played by both sides and Bishops managed to sneak in another two goals to finish the game 5-0.

The team were disappointed, but they kept their heads high and showed good sportsmanship against their competitors.



Photo: Ms K. Brock

### Results vs Bishops

<b>1sts</b>	<b>2-2</b>
<b>2nds</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>3rds</b>	<b>2-2</b>
<b>4ths</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>16A</b>	<b>4-2</b>
<b>16B</b>	<b>3-3</b>
<b>16C</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>16D</b>	<b>0-10</b>
<b>15A</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>14A</b>	<b>8-0</b>
<b>14B</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>14C</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>14D</b>	<b>0-5</b>



## Hockey Fixtures for this weekend



# SACS HOCKEY

DATE: 10/11 May					
TEAM	OPPONENT	VENUE	FIELD	DAY	TIME
U19A	Fairmont	Fairmont		Fri	19:30
U19B	Fairmont	Fairmont		Fri	18:30
U19C	Brackenfell	SACS		Fri	18:30
U19D	Brackenfell	SACS		Fri	17:30
U19E	Tygerberg	SACS		Sat	10:00
U16A	Fairmont	Fairmont		Fri	17:15
U15A	Fairmont	Fairmont		Fri	16:15
U16B	Fairmont	Fairmont		Thurs	19:00
U16C	Fairmont	Fairmont		Thurs	18:00
U16D	Brackenfell	SACS		sat	9:00
U16E	RBHS U16F	RBHS	WPCC A	Fri	18:30
U14A	Fairmont	Fairmont		Fri	15:15
U14B	Fairmont	Fairmont		Thurs	16:00
U14C	Fairmont	Fairmont		Thurs	17:00
U14D	Brackenfell	SACS		Sat	8:00