



The Bulldog Banter



Welcome to Season 2016!

2016 has kicked off with some great results in the opening two rounds of the Premier League season. The Women have opened the season with two big wins, while the Men had a narrow 2-1 loss in their first match of the season and a draw against Doncaster.

This Saturday we have a big day at the Club with Premier League taking on Ph/St.Kilda in the mens and Mentone in the women's match so we look forward to everyone coming down to show their support!

The pre-season is finally over for all other senior competitions with Round 1 matches to commence this weekend.

We wish everyone a great start to the year and hope the season is an enjoyable one for all.



REGISTER NOW!

Registrations are now open for members to register for the 2016 Winter Hockey Season.

Please [click here](#) to be directed to the registration page.

Please ensure you register via HV, Club registration system and pay your fees as soon as possible. All three steps must be completed before you can take to the field.

Please note that your insurance cover from last season expired on 31 March 2016, therefore you must register to be covered by insurance.

New this season is the **HV Supporter Membership** which provides those not taking the field to receive the benefits associated with membership, including entry in to the SNHC.

[Click here](#) for further information on becoming an **FHC Social Member** or HV Supporter!

Saturday 16th April - Round 1 Celebrations

Keep this Saturday 16th April free to hang around the club and celebrate the start of the season with your team. There will be a fantastic guitarist and food available so put it in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there. Further social functions will be arranged later in the year so keep an eye out on the Facebook page and website.



Red Socks in 2016



Going forward, all FHC teams are to wear red socks as the home team uniform with the blue socks used for clashes as required - always a good idea to keep them in your bag!

Red socks can be purchased from Hockey HQ which is open from 5.30pm - 7.00pm on Tues/Wed/Thur nights and on weekends where possible.

Do you have the FHC App?

Our own Footscray Hockey Club App can be downloaded for Free from your usual App store.

This App allows you to easily access fixture details, team info, news and events, our other social media, and more. FHC own the App so all member details are kept in-house and only our sponsors will ever be featured on the App.

Continual development is taking place and other features will be added as members come on board. Please feel free to provide feedback or ideas on what else you think could enhance the users experience. Email those thoughts to footscrayhockeyapp@gmail.com



Know Your Club!

(Some comments and questions from club historian Brendan Sheehan)

Firstly, a little quiz about FHC (answers elsewhere in the Banter). See how many you can answer.

1. What was FHC's first playing season (what year)?
2. Each year we announce four 'Club Champions' – one for each of the men's, women's, boys and girls sections. Can you name 3 of the four 2015 winners?
3. There have been two women who have been Women's Club Champion four times. One has recently been playing in our women's 'A grade' masters team, and the other is still playing for FHC in our Premier League team. Who are they?
4. The Men's Club Champion award was won by one man 10 times. Who is he?
5. Our Club celebrates it's birthday in February every year. How old were we as of the February just passed?
6. In one of the under-age 'Shield' grades (junior 'A' grade), Footscray has competed in that grade's grand final in 7 of the last 8 years. What grade would that be?
7. In two months time, FHC are hosting the senior mens and senior ladies Australian Championships. For what sport?
8. Who holds the record for the most games ever played for FHC by a female? Who will take over that title in 4 games time?
9. In the City of Maribyrnong, all of the tennis clubs combined make up 13% of the female sporting participation in the municipality. Which sport (one club!) makes up 35.6% of the total female sporting participation?
10. Across it's four divisions (men's, women's, juniors, masters), FHC has competed in 280 grand finals winning 144 (51.4%), and being 'runners-up' in 136 (48.6%). In order, which of our divisions has the highest GF winning rate? Our GF Appearances chart is attached!

Interesting Facts:

- Our Club is highly regarded in government circles because of our fairly unique (in sporting club terms) balance of males and females. That breakdown at the end of 2015 was:
 - Seniors (19 years and over): 161 men, 152 women
 - Juniors (U11 – U18): 79 males, 73 females
 - Sub-juniors (U6 –U10): 84 males, 77 females
 - Pre-season, 12 new premierships were erected high up on our pavilion walls, representing our successes in 2014 and 2015.
 - Our fees remain amongst the lowest in Melbourne. , A quick look at 2016 senior fees across Melbourne's big clubs reveals: \$495 – Footscray and Doncaster, \$590 – Hawthorn, \$600 – Essendon and Greensborough, and \$604 – Camberwell.
 - One way of measuring the comparative strength of Melbourne clubs would be to add together the end of 2015 Premier League placings (i.e. our women finished 6th and our men 8th –giving us a points score of 14. The table that such a process would produce shows the following: 1st (6 points): Camberwell, Greensborough and Hawthorn, 4th (10 points): Doncaster, 5th (13 points) MCC and Essendon, 7th (14 points) FOOTSCRAY, 8th (16 points) Altona, 9th (17 points): Waverley, and 10th (22 points): Power House / StKilda.
- A more extensive analysis that took into account strength of junior division, facilities, etc, might see FHC's rank be even higher than the ranking shown above. Of 66 hockey venues in Victoria, the Footscray Hockey Centre ranks as number 2 in terms of user preference (trailing only the State Netball & Hockey Centre in Parkville.
- Recent additions to our trophy cabinets: Andrew Monte's 2013 and 2014 Fin McNab Trophies (Hockey Victoria's Best & Fairest player in all of the men's Premier League), photos of our 4 X 2015 winter season premierships teams, and the Hockey Victoria Shield for the reigning 2014 U15

girls 'A' grade champions.

• And finally, some key milestone games to watch out for in 2016 (the numbers shown = milestone ahead / matches to achieve that milestone): Greg Hopkins (800 / 8), Rico Virtuoso (650 / 3), Zoran Odzovski (600 / 13), Peter McColl (600 / 21), Rodney Johnstone (600 / 22), Graeme Veitch (550 / 10), Sally Colasurdo (500 / 16), Peter Spearing (400 / 7), Daniel Rihs (400 / 15), Giulia Virtuoso (400 / 12), Marianne Pearce (400 / 16), and Ryan Hopkins (400 / 11). And, as per the quiz reference, Julie-Anne Sheehan will become the club's record holder for the highest number of games ever played by a female when she hits game 526 in 4 games time.

And how is this for playing service (years played - 5 year increments) milestones in 2016: Neil Coster (55th season), John Trail (40th season), Graeme Veitch (25th season), Jaimee Skilton (25th season), and Neville Hopkins (25th season).



Victorian Coaching & Playing Opportunities

During the past year, a Premier League Fixturing Committee was formed to look at fixturing surrounding the PL competition. There was significant effort put into a review of the Premier League fixturing process. One aspect of the review was the decision not to postpone individual matches or total rounds for National Championships if a coach or a certain number of players were on National duties.

One of the reasons for postponements historically was to ensure the best coaches were attracted to coaching representative teams and likewise that players would consider coaching roles.

All Premier League clubs, through their representative members at the Premier League President Forums, supported the decision not to postpone any matches and also agreed to fully support all players and coaches who were looking to take on coaching positions for all the different age groups.

The Footscray Hockey Club Board are supportive of this decision and we request that any coach or player showing an interest in coaching a Victorian team is encouraged and is not adversely affected in any selection process.

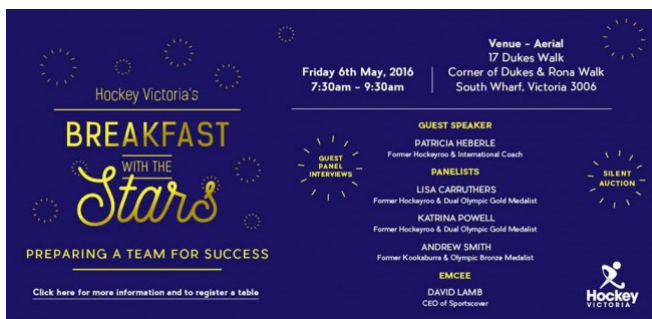
If you have any queries, please discuss further with President Rodney Johnstone rodnej.fhc@gmail.com 0417 350 890.

UMPIRES NEEDED FOR MASTERS GAMES

We are looking for people interested in umpiring Masters games at home on Monday and Wednesday nights. We need 2 umpires for Mondays and 2 for Wednesdays. Hockey Victoria's new direction is that it is now the home venues responsibility to organise umpires for Masters games to build umpiring skills within each club and support clubs umpiring development plans.

Masters games can start between 7 and 9pm and umpires for Masters games receive \$25 per game. There is usually more than one game on each night.

If you are interested please contact Damien Toussaint asap: 0408 325 618
or toussaint.damien.a@edumail.vic.gov.au



[Come along to Hockey Victorias "Breakfast with the Stars"](#)

It's that exciting time of the year again for Hockey Victoria, we are holding their annual breakfast. As part of Women's Round this year, Hockey Victoria is hosting a "Breakfast with

the Stars".

Breakfast with the Stars will be held on Friday 6th May, 7:30am-9:30am

- Theme: Preparing Teams for Success
- Guest Speakers: Patricia Heberle (Olympian and ex Hockey Australia High Performance Director)
- Olympian Panel: Lisa Carruthers (nee Powell), Katrina Powell and Andrew Smith
- Venue: Aerial, South Wharf

We would love to see you all come along to this event. Please see attached the flyer with all the information about the event. It's a fantastic morning and a great opportunity to extend your hockey network.

If you have friends or family who might like to buy an additional corporate table please feel free to share this with them.

To secure yourself or a business a table please use the link below.

<https://hvob16.eventdesq.com/>

[Read more.](#)



[Active Maribyrnong Grant Program](#)

The Active Maribyrnong Grants program provides an opportunity for a range of underrepresented young people within Maribyrnong to actively participate in community sport and recreation.

Grants of up to a maximum of \$200 per child are available to assist with 75% of sports club joining fees and other related costs.

Please refer to the poster and flyer below for further information.

[Active Maribyrnong Grants Poster 2015-16](#)

[Active Maribyrnong Grants Flyer 2015-16](#)

[Read more.](#)

Support our Sponsors that Support Us!

Please support the following sponsors that provide a commission to the club when you utilise their services. Remember to mention that you're a member of Footscray Hockey Club!



Quiz Answers...

1. 1935 (First meeting Feb 1934).
2. Men's: Oscar Allan, Women's: Tegan Purser, Boys: Mitchell Braiden, Girls: Gwen Lynch.
3. The 'Masters' player: Sally Colasurdo (nee Inkster), the current PL player: Esther Fithall (nee Nutt).
4. Ben Acton (Australian rep at field hockey, and ice-hockey!).
5. Eighty two years young.
6. Girls U14/15 'A' grade.
7. Lacrosse.
8. Current record holder: Lynda Thomas (Retired at 525 games). Gearing up for season #30 = Julie-Anne Sheehan on 522 games.
9. The Footscray Hockey Club!
10. Masters - 13 out of 16 (81.3%), Women - 36 out of 68 (52.9%), juniors - 57 out of 117 (48.7%), men - 38 out of 79 (48.1%).



footscrayhockey.com.au