



# The Bulldog Banter



## Welcome to the mid-season edition of the Bulldog Banter!

We're at the halfway mark of season 2015 and below you will find an update on each Section and important information on club activities!

We wish everyone well for the second half of the season! Go Bulldogs!

## Sponsors & VIP Function & Premier League Live-Streaming

Footscray Hockey Club is hosting the annual Sponsors & VIP function on **Sunday 28th June** from 1:30 to 5.30pm.

This will be a big afternoon of activities with FHC hosting the HV live-streaming of the Premier League men's and women's games.

We are aiming to knock over Doncaster in both games and it will be a great contest to watch.

**Men's Premier League - 1.30pm**

**Women's Premier League - 3.30pm**

Look forward to seeing you there for a terrific day of hockey.



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## Acton, Blackbell...who is next?

Whilst younger generations probably view Footscray HC's Premier League status as 'Status Quo', older generations know that we've been in the wilderness for a long time (women 35 years, men 50 years) and that our return to the top grade is now a prized possession that we must both protect



and celebrate. For the first time in most of our lives we now have a complete pathway for FHC juniors to come through to Prem League at their own club, and, if they're good enough, gain representative honours right through to the Kookaburras and Hockeyroos.

It's 50 years since that pathway was last available to a FHC junior, and to celebrate the occasion please see the attached 'Elite Hockey Pathway' chart which shows where some of our

current young guns have graduated to. Fifty years ago it was legends like Ben Acton (dual international for field and ice hockey and pictured left) and Bob Blackbell (international umpire pictured right) who went 'all the way' (the only FHC members to have achieved 'Australian level status'), whilst the chart shows us that now it is players like Olivia Colasurdo and Kyle Gildea, and umpire Glen Munday that lead the charge to represent their Club and country. Behind them are a large group of talented young players all aspiring to bring FHC its next international shirt or badge.

Whilst we've had a permanent display of Ben Acton's Aussie paraphernalia for some time now, we're proud to now advise you of the display of Bob Blackbell's priceless umpiring badges. The Blackbell display is on the wall outside Hockey HQ and has been made possible by the extended Blackbell family loaning us Bob's precious hockey memorabilia. Thank you to all concerned.



**Honour-boards all updated**

Keeping our history recorded for future generations is an important task for current members and officials. In that regard we are happy to announce that our honour-boards have recently been fully updated, our premierships team photo board updated, and our premierships flag display is about to be updated (we're awaiting an U18 p'ship flag to go with the other 5 earned in 2014).

Highlights of the honour-board updates include the following players making it to the Club Playing Service Board (men – min 500 games, women min 350 games): Heath Treble, Tung Le, Heather Shaw, Nicole Virtuoso, Jean Beale, Marianne Pearce, Lauren and Georgia Hopkins, Nicola Hancock, and Hayley McAlinden. Danny Colasurdo and Enrico Virtuoso received a star beside their names for passing the 600 game mark this past season.

Another chart that will be put on display (see attachment 2) is the chart summarising our Club's Grand Final Appearance history. Over 80 completed seasons, FHC have taken part in 274 grand finals for 141 wins and 133 runners-up. Let's hope that we always stay 'ahead of the ledger' on this measuring stick.

## **A Keen Eye For History**

Those with a keen eye for history might pick up the anomaly that is on show via the brilliantly hand-drawn life-membership certificate that we have on display with Bob Blackbell's memorabilia. It states that FHC was founded in 1933!!

Our official history draws on many other sources to confirm that we were officially founded in late 1934, and that is confirmed via a perusal of documents scattered across our collection / display. One wonders how the error could have been made given that the certificate was drawn up in 1954 (Bob's life membership ratified the following year – 1955) just 20 years after our founding.

Here's another piece of history created in 2014, that being the removal of a large monkey from the back of Club legend Greg Hopkins (so far 39 playing seasons and 762 great games). How many people knew that Greg's appearance in the successful 2014 Men's M2N premierships team was his first ever premierships success in FHC colours – after 12 attempts. Yes – 11 successive grand final losses and finally a glorious win! It's a testimony to the high level of regard that surrounds Greg that FHC men continuously went into GF battle over the years knowing that their efforts would likely be scuppered by 'the curse', but in they went to support Greg and his search for redemption. Well done to Greg and all who supported him over the decades.

To view a video dedicated to Greg's achievement please [click here](#).

Greg's personal history ties in well with the lead story above. Greg was an outstanding player in his day but played all of his Premier League hockey at the Powerhouse club because, at that time, FHC were floundering at 3rd division level. Now that we've re-created the full pathway for FHC kids to start with us and go all the way to the highest levels, players like Greg's daughter Georgia are able to excel in Premier League wearing the might red, white and blue! Don't take it for granted though guys, because for 50 years, it wasn't the case.

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## **SENIOR SECTION**

### **Half Season Report**

At the half way point of the season both Men's & Women's teams are showing mixed results.

The Premier League & Reserves will play each of the other 11 teams in their competition once, followed by 5 rounds of games determined by 2014 ladder pools. Our next home round, on

Sunday 28th June, will feature our Premier League Men & Women broadcasted live via the internet in the Live Streaming round. It is also our Sponsor's Day. Hope to see you all there in support in the royal blue, red and white. Our Pennant teams continue to play competitive hockey with most still in reach of a top 4 spot. The Men's Metro teams are doing really well, all in the top 4. The Women's Metro teams still continue to enjoy their social hockey.

Thank you to all those members who have completed their umpiring duty, canteen rostered duty, supported the Thu night meals, fundraising and social occasions so far this year.

Here are the ladders to date.

#### **Men's Results**

Premier League - 10th

Reserves - 10th

Pennant A - 8th

Pennant C - 5th

Pennant E - 1st

Pennant F - 10th

Metro A - 2nd

Metro B Blue - 2nd

Metro B Red - 3rd

#### **Women's Results**

Premier League - 7th

Reserves - 8th

Pennant A - 5th

Pennant B - 6th

Pennant C - 6th

Pennant D - 5th

Pennant E - 4th

Metro A - 7th

Metro B - 10th

Enjoy the back half of the season!

**Important Information** - Due to the Junior State Championships being played at the club next week, Senior Training will be held at Maribyrnong College on both Tuesday 30th June and Thursday 2nd July.

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## **MASTERS SECTION**

There have been some mixed results in the first half of the Masters Season. Several teams have a chance to secure a finals berth with a strong finish to the season.

Men's Masters 35+A - 9th

Men's Masters 45BNW - 5th

Men's 50+A - 5th

Men's 50+B - 10th

Women's 35+A - 4th

Women's 35BNW - 4th

Congratulations to the following players selected in the 2015 Victorian Women's Masters Teams who will travel to Brisbane from the 24th September to 3rd October:

35+ - Nicole Virtuoso (Train-On)

50+ - Lynda Tivendale

Good luck to all the mens players currently involved in trials for the 2015 Victorian Men's Masters Teams which will be held in Cairns from the 26th September to 10th October.

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## **JUNIOR SECTION**

Another very busy first half of the season. Footscray Hockey Club is again building on the hard work of recent years with terrific numbers of young players. We are one of the few clubs in Melbourne fully supporting Hockey Victoria's plans for clubs to run their own local junior competitions. This sees us running locally based 8 and 6 team competitions for U8s and U10s.

Players and parents are enjoying the format of a consistent time and location for the small field format games.

At the halfway point of the season several teams are enjoying great success and are well positioned to consolidate their position and head towards finals. Ladder to date:

U18 Mixed Northwest – 4th

U16 Mixed A Shield – 1st

U16 Girls A Shield – 10th

U16 Mixed Northwest – 1st

U14 Mixed Pennant NW – 4th

U14 Girls A Shield – 1st

U14 Mixed Northwest – 3rd

U12 Mixed A Shield – 4th

U12 Girls A Shield – 4th

U12 Girls Pennant – 5th

U12 Mixed Northwest (Red) – 5th

U12 Mixed Northwest (Blue) – 4th

U10 Super-League (after 5 rounds):

1. Blue Heelers
2. Tangerine Terriers
3. Purple Puppies
4. White Wolfpack
5. Red Dogs
6. Golden Hounds

Congratulations and good luck to the following FHC players representing Western Wildcats in the upcoming Junior State Championships (JSC):

U13 GIRLS: Josie Erbsland, Alannah Hibbard, Alex Hughes, Amelie Keane, Jade Robertson, Brianna Hudson (GK)

U13 BOYS: Harry Brazil, Sam Komp, Kean Weerasekera, Kade Killeen (GK)

U15 GIRLS: Tate Brazil, Claire Hind, Ania Kosowski, Gwendolyn Lynch, Georgia Nelson

U15 BOYS: Sean Peacock, Jacob Poole, Ben Rose

U17 GIRLS: Bella Bojic, Rebecca Grey, Carly James, Zoe Killeen, Kaitlyn Grimaldi (GK)

U17 BOYS: Mitchell Braiden, Angus McKinnon, Tom Pollock, Latham Kosowski (GK)

Congratulations and good luck to the following FHC players representing School Sport Victoria (SSV) in the National Championships in August:

Victorian U12 Girls: Josie Erbsland, Jade Robertson  
 Victorian U16 Boys: Mitchell Braiden, Will Harris, Angus McKinnon

## Key Appointments

I am pleased to announce the following important key appointments:

Coordinator of Junior Coaching – Hernie Isorena  
 Junior Development Officer – Geoff Peacock

Both coaches have over a decade of experience in coaching juniors, seniors, zone teams, schools and state teams. We are very fortunate these individuals will be investing their time developing the plan for junior coaching and development at Footscray.

**Please note:** Junior training will not be held next week due to the Junior State Championships being played across Footscray Hockey Centre and the State Netball Hockey Centre.

**Wine Fundraiser 2015**  
 Thanks for your support!  
 Orders due by Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July.  
 Pick up orders from FHC from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July

**All funds raised will go to the Club and contribute towards facility projects such as a new electronic scoreboard, upgrade of lights and upgrade of the dugouts.**

Submit order form to  
 a) canteen  
 b) to a director  
 c) e-mail form to a director

Order Online - min dozen bottles of numbers 1-6 on wine list and have the wine delivered to your home.  
[www.prospectwines.com.au](http://www.prospectwines.com.au)  
 Click on "Fundraiser Groups"  
 Click on "Footscray Hockey Club Logo"

For all enquiries please contact

Juniors:	David Braiden	<a href="mailto:footscrayhockeyjuniors@gmail.com">footscrayhockeyjuniors@gmail.com</a>
Masters:	Damien Toussaint	<a href="mailto:toussaint.damien.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">toussaint.damien.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Men:	Darryl Jahnke	<a href="mailto:fhcmensadmin@gmail.com">fhcmensadmin@gmail.com</a>
Women:	Nicole Virtuoso	<a href="mailto:nicolevirtuoso@gmail.com">nicolevirtuoso@gmail.com</a>

Thanks for your support!

## FHC Wine Fundraiser!

FHC launched its Wine Fundraiser for 2015 and we encourage all members, families, friends and supporters to support this initiative and consider purchasing from the terrific range of wines.

All funds raised will go to the Club and contribute towards facility projects such as a new electronic scoreboard, upgrade of lights and upgrade of the dugouts.

All wines can be tasted or purchased by the glass from the canteen if you'd like to try before you buy. Brut can only be purchased by the bottle.

If you'd like to purchase online;  
[CLICK HERE](#)

Order form: [FHC Wine Fundraiser Order Form 2015](#)

## Mezzanine Off-Limits Until Further Notice

All members should be advised that Maribyrnong Council have informed FHC that our upstairs areas are not to be accessed by Club members until further notice. Council's new Building Surveyor has determined that our access stairs do not meet current building code specifications, and that the developed areas upstairs will need to be covered by a new building permit. We will work with Council to complete these requirements as quickly as possible, but we've been advised that the ban will be in place for at least the balance of this season.

Council have provided 2 small containers which are currently on site, which will store training equipment and portable gym equipment. The move will take place sometime over the next month and council accept that we will need to access upstairs to complete the move.

On the positive side, we are working with Council on a new master plan for the building which will hopefully include major improvements to our toilet / shower facilities, our kitchen / catering capacity, and our upstairs storage capacity and meeting / player review spaces.

More on this in the next Banter!!

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## Canteen Help Required - Junior State Championships

The Club are now urgently seeking volunteers for the GJ Gardiner Homes Junior State Championships (JSC) to be held from Tuesday 30th June – 3rd July (week 1 of the upcoming School Holidays).

This is the flagship junior tournament for hockey in Victoria and FHC need to provide the excellent canteen service and friendliness for which we are renowned.

FHC will be open 7am - 10pm each day - there are day and night positions available in 2 hour shifts starting from 8am - 10pm each day.

A roster will be displayed in the club rooms on Tuesday 16th June. If you can spare a few hours during any of the tournament days, please fill in your preferred times on the roster displayed ASAP. Alternatively, contact me directly to book in your preferred times.

We welcome volunteers from ALL sections for this tournament , so please consider doing your service during this time. Thank you to those who have already offered their assistance.

Regards,

Bronwynne Livingston  
FHC Canteen Manager  
e: [fhccanteen@gmail.com](mailto:fhccanteen@gmail.com)  
m: 0414 528 636



## Parking at FHC

In the interests of ensuring the safety of all members, please ensure cars are parked only in the marked bays provided. Cars should not be parked out of designated bays at any time.

Only those members with the required permits are permitted to park in the available disabled parking spaced provided.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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## Code of Conduct

Every player, umpire, coach, spectator and official has the right to feel safe, welcome and included while being involved in sport.

Footscray Hockey Club prides itself on the inclusive and supportive environment which has been established over 80+ years. Every member plays a part in ensuring their actions and behaviours are supportive of the values of the club.

Over-zealous parents, boisterous spectators, opinionated players and quick-tempered coaches may need to be reminded of appropriate behaviour when involved with sport.

Please ensure that your team are adhering to the Codes of Behaviour outlined by Hockey Victoria, please [click here](#) for further information.



[footscrayhockey.com.au](http://footscrayhockey.com.au)