



The Bulldog Banter



Preparing For 2015!

In recent weeks the press have featured a few 'behind the scenes' stories about the all-conquering Hawthorn Football Club. Their strategic planning, their super-smart deal making over their facilities, etc, their membership growth strategies, and their incredible player-draft selections that they have been able to negotiate. Hawthorn has simply been better administered than anyone else, and now it is showing on the field.

These stories give some insight to the reality that Club growth and on-field successes only happen here preceded by dynamic administrative leadership.

At our level of sport, FHC would be seen to be a similarly dynamic organisation over the past decade. Our off-field work has brought us from third division a few years ago (SL3) to Premier League, with a huge membership (600+ players), the league's best facilities, and a 'culture' that seeks to see continual improvement in the way that we do things both on and off the field. All of this has of course been supported by terrific volunteer support across all areas of our membership.

Our current Board (and not just the Board!) has worked hard over the off-season to live up to this administrative reputation and to have us 'primed' or successful operations in 2015. This hard work will continue across the season ahead, but the highlights of the Board's summer toil include:

- Adaption to new port-folios: The Board includes several new faces and a slight re-jigging of responsibilities. These changes have worked smoothly and efficiently to date.
- Overview of our many summer teams – indoor and out.
- Recruiting for 2015: Several large coaching and playing roles needed to be filled for 2015. All positions have been filled with outstanding candidates.
- Increased emphasis on our junior division: Key elements include the targeting of more experienced coaches for our junior teams, and the locking-in of a mid-season Strategic Planning session for the junior division which will hopefully lead to a larger and more diversified junior section organisational structure going forward.
- Outstanding pre-season fitness programs, culminating in terrific pre-season camps for both the men's and women's divisions.
- Increased emphasis on junior school clinics, especially the targeting of younger children (grades 1 & 2) to give us greater access the 'first choice' athletes.
- Stock holdings and shop processes have been audited for both our canteen and merchandise

shop.

- Supplier contracts for both retail outlets have also been reviewed.
- We have continued to work with a supplier on the development of an FHC related 'app' for mobile devices. Hopefully an announcement soon re the launch date of this exciting feature.
- A doubling of our ground watering capacity has been achieved with the old tank being replaced by two new ones!
- And our financial liaison with grant partners like the City of Maribyrnong has been tightened, adding further to our healthy trading position with the Club being well placed cash-flow wise to enter the new season.

The 'behind the scenes' action is rarely seen (and maybe rarely thought about) by the average member, but is crucial to where we are going as a Club in the years ahead. I hope that you feel that your membership of this Club is well selected and that you have confidence in and appreciate the work of your elected Board of Management.

Brendan Sheehan

Director – Planning and Performance

2015 Registrations are now Due!

A big thank you to all of those players who have registered and paid their fees by the due date.

All players must register and pay their fees before they play their first match in the 2015 Season.

If you wish to play Seniors or Masters your registration is now due.

If you wish to play juniors, registration and fees are due on the 18th April.

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

As there have been some changes to the registration system this season, it is important that you read all information carefully prior to registering.

If you have any questions please contact:

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General Secretary

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Demo Day

TONIGHT!

Tuesday 14th April



TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

**PRODUCT DEMO &
TASTING**

COME N TRY SHOES, STICKS & FOOD
JUST HOCKEY 5PM TO 8PM
VILI'S 6.30PM TO 8.30PM

Come along and
sample Vili's
Pastries and Give
us your thoughts
on what you would
like to see in the
canteen this
season.

Don't miss out on
a chance to see &
try the new range
of sticks and
shoes at Hockey
HQ

10% off all Stick
Purchases



Come along to the club to try out
some new hockey equipment and
taste the Vili's products that may be in
the canteen this season.

Just Hockey - 5pm - 8pm

Vili's - 6.30pm - 8.30pm

WOMEN'S SECTION PRE-SEASON

The women's section top squad have been participating in very beneficial pre-season program since November last year. The fitness components organised by Rachel Doody and skills sessions by head coach Lachie Anderson and Reserves coach Phil Frost. The culmination of the fitness program was the Pre-Season Camp held at Merricks where the girls completed an Iron Woman, Tough Mudder Obstacle course, Horse Riding, Car Rally, Waverley Park Fitness challenge, Beep Test, Bike-a-thon, Team Building Activities and even the Easter Bunny came for a visit.

Once March commenced we started to see more Pennant and Metro players attend the skills sessions and practice matches. Our numbers are looking good and with 8 practice matches held over the weekend just gone, the women's section is ready for round 1. We are short of goal keepers so if there is anyone out there interested in giving this position a go, then please let me know.

Off the track the women's section committee of volunteers is almost filled, team managers in place, we have elected player's reps and selectors, all our policies are in place, the Premier League Sponsorship program is going well and lastly the women's registrations and fee payments are much improved. We have some interest in filling our last coaching position Pennant C and a few registrations still to come in this week.

Look out everyone - we'll be 9 teams strong on the pitch this season! Good luck everyone!



MEN'S SECTION PRE-SEASON

The men's section has been training strongly for several months now under the guidance of fitness coach Troy Fluitsma. Joshua Burt has taken on the role of Premier League coach this season, being assisted by Richard Nally with Mark Ford again taking on the Reserves team coaching role.

The Premier League squad recently went to Canberra for a pre-season camp. They played a series of games vs. Canberra clubs and received a personal tour of the Australian War Memorial with Major General Simone Wilkie AM.

With nine senior teams again being filled this season, we look forward to a busy year ahead and wish all teams the best!

MASTERS HOCKEY AT FHC 2015

Welcome to all of our new Masters members who have joined Footscray Hockey Club and thanks to our current Masters players for welcoming them to the Kennel. Old Dogs can learn new tricks!

We have 6 Masters teams on the park this year – 4 in the Men's section and 2 in the Women's. Unfortunately there has been some movement in the Men's 35 age group so we were only able to field one team but we'll be looking at being competitive in 35A Grade as well as the other three A Grade competitions. A big thanks to all of the Masters members who so promptly registered and paid their fees – we enjoyed a much smoother start to this season thanks to the cooperation of our members. A big thanks also to the members who have put themselves forward as Team Managers and Captains and who help to get a competitive side on the field each week.

Our Men's Masters members should note that Hockey Victoria are now accepting nominations from eligible Men's Masters Players for the 2015 Men's Masters State Teams to compete in the National Championship between September 25-October 10 in Cairns. The XV Australian Masters Games (a different competition to the State Championships) is also open for entries and will be held in Adelaide between 3-10 October.

JUNIOR SECTION - 2015!

The junior program at FHC continues to grow with the successful running of a recent Hook in 2 Hockey program at the club.

A reminder to all junior players that registrations are due on the 18th April. Please refer to the registrations section above for further information.

First round of the Junior Season is on Friday 1st May.

There are several players from the junior section currently away with the U15's and U18's Victorian State Teams at the Australian Championships. FHC wish them well and look forward to their return and guidance to their team mates throughout 2015.

Round 4 Sat 9th May Pink Day, Women's Round & "P" Party!

A big weekend is planned combining our annual "Pink Day" round vs Hawthorn Hockey Club @ FHC in Premier League & Reserves. It also happens to coincide with Women's Round.

Pink themed food, fun fair & festivities will feature during the day and all proceeds will go towards the Jane McGrath Foundation and National Breast Cancer Association.

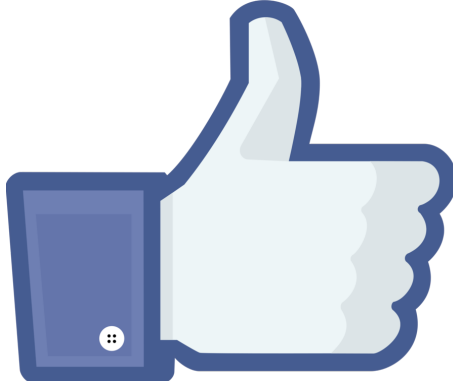
Topping off the day with a "P" party at the club - come dressed as something starting with P. Keep an eye out for more details....pop in the 9th May in your diaries and get your pink on!



Footscray Hockey Club Facebook Page 700 LIKES

Footscray Hockey Club facebook page has the most likes of the major metropolitan clubs at 700. Most other clubs sit in the 500's. Please like our page and encourage your friends and family to like our page.

We hope to reach 1000! www.facebook.com/footscrayhockeyclub



Are you playing at Brunswick Secondary College?

Brunswick Hockey Club have advised that due to construction work at the Brunswick Secondary College the car park off Dawson Street has been closed.

There is very limited parking at the back of the school – entry via Harvey Street off Union Street
The alternative is to park in Fallon Street and enter the school via the main gates.



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