



The Bulldog Banter



Welcome to the end of season edition of the Bulldog Banter!

Congratulations to all players, coaches, team managers, officials, parents and supporters for making it through the 2015 season!

Whilst the season may be over for many players and supporters there is still the opportunity to get out and show your support for the numerous FHC teams competing in finals over the next three weekends. For all information on who is playing where, please check the FHC website or Facebook page and get out your red, white and blue to show your support!

Although the winter season is over there are still many opportunities to stay involved in this great club over summer, for information on summer competitions and events, please see details below.

Footscray Hockey Club Senior Presentation Night

Saturday October 17th @ The Yarraville Club

Ticket Sales are Now Open & Close on 10th October!

<http://tickethost.com.au/eview.aspx?Perf=1441&Event=946>

Table requests & Dietary Requirements can be made in the ticket purchase!



SENIOR SECTION

The 2015 season has been successful with all senior teams holding their position in the grades. Thank you to all players, coaches and team managers for all your efforts throughout the season.

Thanks also to all umpires and officials that have enabled each match to be played.

Several teams are involved in finals so please get out to support wearing your red, white and blue!

Ladder positions at the end of the home & away season:

WOMEN

Womens Premier League - 6th

Premier League Reserves - 5th

Pennant A - 4th

Pennant B - 5th

Pennant C - 6th

Pennant D - 7th

Pennant E - 5th

Metro A - 8th

Metro B - 10th

MEN

Mens Premier League - 7th

Premier League Reserves - 11th

Pennant A - 6th

Pennant C - 4th

Pennant E - 1st

Pennant F - 8th

Metro A - 2nd

Metro B (Red) - 3rd

Metro B (Blue) - 4th

CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK to Andrew Monte & Leah Merrett who both announced their retirements and played their last PREMIER LEAGUE games for the club on the weekend.

'Ranga' played 14 seasons for Greensborough & Footscray winning 3 Fin McNab (PL Best and Fairest), 2 whilst at Footscray. Andrew has won Premierships, Highest Goal Scorer Awards for the League, Club Best & Fairest, All Star Teams, represented Victoria in the AHL and played with Beeston in the EHL and Euro Hockey League

Leah played 14 seasons for Waverley & Footscray, awarded with top 5 rankings in the League Best & Fairest. Leah has won 3 Premierships, Club Best & Fairest, All Star Teams, represented Victoria in the AHL.

Penny Mather, Women's PL Goal Keeper also announced she is moving to the country next year for work after 6 seasons with the girls, monumental in assisting the 1sts team from SL2 to SL1, she has won FHC's Best & Fairest and currently in the Vipers Squad (we hope to see her back at the club when she decides to be a Melbournian again).

We wish them all the best!



MASTERS SECTION

Well, the season's over. I'm not sure where it went!

Firstly, a big thanks to all of our wonderful team captains and managers. Thanks for your energy and enthusiasm and for getting teams on the field each week. Secondly, the Masters' Competition is a growing competition and our members, who hit the age of 35, need to realise that there are strong competitions beyond weekend hockey on Monday and Wednesday nights (and you get your weekends back). We could potentially have some of the strongest Masters teams in the State but we need the commitment of a few more players, especially the men, to strengthen our teams.

Here's how our Masters' teams ended up at the end of the 2015 season:

TEAM	POSITION ON LADDER
Men's 35A Grade	8th
Men's 45B Grade	5th
Women's 35A Grade	3rd (and playing finals)
Women's 35B Grade	5th (pending a last game result)
Men's 50A Grade	5th (pending a last game result)
Men's 50B Grade	10th

JUNIOR SECTION

BIG THANK YOU to all the coaches, team managers and coordinators for all your efforts during

the season. It takes a lot of hard work to make it all happen.

Thanks also to all the parents that have generally helped out around the club and with the canteen, getting kids to games on time and showing great support.

At the end of the home and away season several teams have enjoyed great success and are now ready to launch into the finals. Final placing at end of round 14:

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 – 5th

U12 Girls Pennant – 5th

U12 Mixed Northwest (Red) – 5th

U12 Mixed Northwest (Blue) – 7th

U10 Super-League (after 14 rounds):

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

Congratulations to all of the junior players selected in various state teams, representative squads and junior development programs this season. The number of FHC players being selected is a great result for the club and as a result of the hard work of all involved.

Planning & Performance

In a couple of months time at our AGM you will receive detailed reports from all Directors outlining the successes and hard work undertaken in their portfolios, my portfolio included. In short though, we have met the key performance indicators of surviving in Premier League, maintaining a very healthy budget, finding an outstanding candidate to replace Travis as our head men's coach, pushing Maribyrnong Council into getting our pavilion re-design process moving, finalising the re-write of our constitution, and we've almost finished a re-structure / clarification of our Director's roles. Tasks that have not been completed include the undertaking of a junior section strategic planning process, and the adoption of more 'delegated' workload structures in several of our Board portfolios. But more on these matters in the AGM report!

What I wanted to focus on in this newsletter revolves more around my observations as a long-term Board member, player and parent. In his recent social media statement Greg Hopkins commented on the pride that he felt in his Club the day of Alex Cutrale's funeral. Alex is the brother of senior ladies starlet Georgia, son of former player and umpiring gun Sam, and supermum Sharon. Greg

expressed the exact feeling that Julie-Anne and I felt that day which was a tremendous pride in how the FHC 'family' had come together to support our own.

We can easily repeat the statistics of where we stand in terms of Club size (second largest in Victoria), the quality of our facilities (best community-club hockey facilities in Australia), the strength of our financial resources, and so on, but the 'social capital' that we have built is not shown on our balance sheet, yet stands equal to or even mightier than those other accomplishments.

All around me now I see people who are so proud of their Club. Gone are the days when a small hand-full of club officials had to police the tenuous 'culture' that they wanted to see develop at FHC. Around me now I see hundreds of members who contribute so positively to our culture, our spirit, to the way that they want our club to be seen. I have no doubt that non of these members would stand by and allow any behaviour contrary to our standards to be allowed to go unchecked. You have a great Club when you can boast of that level of development.

So whilst my current portfolio centres on helping set objectives and monitoring their achievement, I am so happy to report back on a 'performance' category that we do not give the recognition that it deserves. Given our current level of development as a Club, our Board will no doubt direct a fair bit of its attention to how we might now progress to becoming one of the really elite hockey clubs in Victoria, but lets all take pride in how we individually contribute to the standards set at FHC, how we individually rise to the occasion when the Club needs us (on-field and off), and in how we support our fellow 'family' members when they need us also.



Summer Hockey Season 2015/2016

Summer outdoor hockey competitions commence on Sunday 18th October 2015. Several competitions are being run at Footscray Hockey Centre and surrounding grounds.

Competitions available include:

Monday - Mixed Social @ FHC & Mens Masters @ ESS

Tuesday - Mens Social & Mens Competitive @ FHC

Wednesday - Mens Masters 50+ @ FHC & Womens' Masters @ ESS

Thursday - Womens' Social & Womens' Competitive @ FHC

Information regarding dates, registration for insurance, eligibility & other summer info. has been emailed out to each section. If you're interested in playing and have not received information please contact your Section Director for information.



Hockey VICTORIA ZONE CHALLENGE



Footscray Hockey Club will be hosting the boys section of the 2015 Zone Challenge on the 21st & 22nd November this year. Under 12 & Under 14 Boys matches will be held across the two days of competition.

As with every event hosted by the club, it would not be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers.

Information will be circulated to all members closer to the event but if you can pencil in the date and make yourself available for a shift in the canteen over this weekend it would be much appreciated.

FHC Wine Fundraiser

Thanks to members for supporting the wine fundraiser this season. Batch #2 is now ready for collection at the FHC canteen.



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