



# The Bulldog Banter



## We're almost half way there in 2016!

Dear Members,

Mid-year already and so much has already happened during the year. Recently we hosted a 10 day International Lacrosse tournament, and we will host Uni games and Junior State Champs very soon - a huge thanks in anticipation to all our canteen volunteers. We have upcoming the deadline for obtaining a PL sponsor (30 June) fast approaching. A big thanks to those players who actually made an effort to obtain a sponsor and contribute to the teams advancement. For those that have not obtained a sponsor you have a few weeks to make good on your commitment to the rest of your team.

To all players it is now the cold and wettest time of the year and time to dig deep by training and playing with enthusiasm and dedication to yourself and your fellow players. It all starts with you - and its important to encourage each other through winter and beyond for a successful season. Call your team mates to see that they get along to training, it makes your time there worthwhile as well - the more players at training the more drills can be used to make the time valuable and energetic. I wish everyone well for the second half of the season.

Remember we have upcoming a Men's health and past players day on Saturday 25th June - so spread the word to any males that you used to play here with, if they no longer play let them know to come along. This will be followed by the Life members and Sponsors day on July 23rd. Other social activities are being planned as we speak so keep up to date with what is happening around the Club.

Play well and remember your actions and attitude directly reflect on the Footscray Hockey Club, so make us proud. Go doggies!!

Regards

Rodney Johnstone (RJ)

FHC Chairman

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## Mid Season Results so far...

### Mens Section

2016 has been a tough year for the Premier League men with the loss of some valuable experience it has been a steep learning curve for the young team. With time the group will grow together and with an average age of just 22 will build towards the end of the season in preparation for 2017! Meanwhile the Reserves group has pulled together well and shown some great results

in the season so far, sitting 3rd, finals are on the radar.

The Pennant teams have had strong results with all three Pennant A/C/D in a solid position for a finals finish this season. The promotion of the Pennant D team (PE in 2015) has been particularly promising and provides another avenue for the development of our young players.

As in every year the Metro teams are working hard with Metro A going strong. Both Metro B teams have battled hard with player availability causing some issues early in the season. Lets hope for a strong finish and some more flags for 2016!

Premier League - 11th

Premier League Reserves - 3rd

Pennant A - 3rd

Pennant C - 5th

Pennant D - 3rd

Pennant F - 9th

Metro A North/West - 1st

Metro B North/West - 7th

Metro B Central - 9th

## **Womens Section**

The Women's section are travelling nicely nearly half way through the season. The pre-season program was well attended by the Premier League squad and starting 2 weeks before the Pennant and Metro did not deter any enthusiasm. Our Premier League team having a ripper of a year, currently sitting 2nd with some outstanding results, the culmination of excellent coaching and building for the past 2 years under the helm of Lachie Anderson. Thanks to David Braiden and the junior section for providing us with ball girls for the PL games, Colin Braithwaite for setting up the video scaffold, Liam Hoare for being the PL tech bench rep for FHC and Heather Shaw for her match day amazing afternoon teas. The Reserves, in a tight competition, are remaining very competitive with nail biting close results, we hope they can edge up to the 4 under keen direction from Phil Frost.

Our Pennant teams are having mixed results, the PA and PB teams having a core training group who train together once a week, and those who wish to challenge themselves on a second night are most welcomed. PA under Hernie Isorena sitting 3rd with some strong results, and PB coached by Geoff Peacock sitting 5th. Pennant C are beginning to have some more competitive results over past few rounds, yet to secure that elusive win under coach Glen Munday. Pennant D coached by RJ and Pennant E by John Marcola, our 6ths and 7ths, are always faced with playing the 1sts, 2nds, 3rds and 4ths of smaller clubs. Both sitting 7th, they are sure to improve on the back half of the season. Unfortunately due to late withdrawals, we had to pull our 2nd Metro B team and go back to an 8 team Women's section. The Metro competition is "open to all entry" which means there are many strong clubs who should be entering into Metro A, however our Metro B ladies captained by Jenny Hilton and Heather Shaw are not focussing on the score board, but having fun and enjoying their hockey.

As highlighted in this edition of the Banter we have many senior ladies gaining selection in rep teams such as Wildcats, U18's, Vipers Squads and the Australian Junior Team. We had many in the U15's and U21's Vic Team earlier this season. Congratulations ladies, your make us very proud. Not to forget the off field heroes of the Women's section who help maintain excellent administration, Lynda Thomas, Karen Johnstone, Angela Thompson, Heather Shaw, Mel Sanders, Jemma Caon, Emma Robinson, Georgia Hopkins, Toni Julian, plus all of our amazing team managers. Remember it is the outstanding contribution **"off field" and "on field"** that makes the

success of a club, they work in partnership and if you can contribute to both aspects - then we have a winning combination!

Premier League - 2nd

Premier League Reserves - 7th

Pennant A - 3rd

Pennant B - 5th

Pennant C - 10th

Pennant D - 7th

Pennant E - 7th

Metro B North/West - 10th

## **Masters Section**

Thanks to all of the Masters players for being so supportive and organised with getting our season off to a smooth start by registering and paying fees. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Typically, the men's sides have been hit with injuries and unavailables and some sides have struggled during away games. We've also had a goalie shortage and a big thanks to Paul Killeen and Danny Heffernan for their tremendous support and filling in when needed.

Both of our women's sides have been fiercely competitive and have registered some great wins.

Men's 45B Grade: 2 wins, 5 losses - 7th

Men's 50A Grade: 2 wins, 5 losses, 1 draw - 7th

Men's 50B Grade: 1 win, 6 losses, 1 draw - 10th

Women's 35A Grade: 3 wins, 3 losses, 3 draws - 6th

Women's 35B Grade: 4 wins, 4 losses, 1 draw - 5th

## **Junior Section**

After yet another huge pre-season, our numbers at the base continue to grow with keen talented young players. This sees our FHC based U8 competition expand to a massive 12 teams this year and our U10s to a 6 team FHC Super-league competition. Players and parents are enjoying the format of a consistent time and location for the small field format games.

Despite a frustrating start to the season for several teams that have had multiple teams withdraw and competitions re-drawn, the season is now well under way. After 6 rounds of the season several teams are enjoying success and consolidating positions in the top 4. Ladder positions after round 6 as follows:

U18 Mixed Northwest – 4th

U16 Girls A Shield – 3rd

U16 Mixed A Shield NW – 2nd

U16 Mixed Northwest – 3rd

U14 Girls A Shield – 4th

U14 Mixed A Shield NW – 1st

U14 Mixed Northwest – 6th

U12 Girls A Shield – 4th

U12 Mixed A Shield – 3rd

U12 Girls Pennant – 6th

U12 Mixed Pennant NW – 5th

U12 Mixed Northwest – 5th

U10 Mixed NW – 2nd

May was a busy month for selections for representative teams. It is great to see the young emerging stars burst onto the scene with selections in the U12 SSV state teams and also a great story to see Gwen Lynch rewarded with a Vic U18 selection after continued hard work and persistence. And then to see what can be achieved with talent and a whole lot of hard work, FHC's Olivia Colasurdo has been recently selected in the Women's National Junior Squad (U21s).

### **Congratulations and good luck to the following FHC players:**

#### Junior State Championships (JSCs) - Western Wildcats:

**U13 Girls:** Bridgette de la Mere, Josie Erbsland, Zoe Hibbard, Alex Hughes, Maddisun Passmore, Jade Robertson, Kate Thomas, Maddie White, Charlotte Whiteside, Ashleigh Winter

**U13 Boys:** Ewan Bezzobs, Harry Brazil, Daniel Lienert, Sam O'Brien, Teddy Stewart

**U15 Girls:** Helayna Braiden, Tate Brazil, Alannah Hibbard, Claire Hind, Amelie Keane, Ania Kosowski, Georgia Nelson, Jenna Polacsek, Leah Polacsek

**U15 Girls:** (South West Country Eagles): Brianna Hudson, Zoe Thomas

**U15 Boys:** Josh Bradfield, Josh D'Arcy, Lachlan D'Arcy, Finn Lewis, Ben Rose, Kean Weerasekera

**U17 Girls:** Rebecca Grey, Rahda Butler

**U17 Boys:** Owen Lynch, Simon Main, Tom Pollock, Jacob Poole

#### School Sport Victoria (SSV) - National Championships:

**U12 Girls:** Charlotte Whiteside, Ashleigh Winter, Kate Thomas, Bridgette De la Mere (emergency)

**U12 Boys:** Sam O'Brien

#### U18 National Championships:

**Boys Blue:** Mitchell Braiden

**Girls Blue:** Isabella Colasurdo, Georgia Hopkins, Carly James, Bethany Russ

**Girls White:** Rebecca James, Gwendolyn Lynch

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## **Men's Health Round**

Over the past decade FHC's leaders have made a concerted effort to create a 'culture' or environment where our members and friends behaviours are something that we can all be so proud of. Our members have excelled in this regard, and the members now drive this agenda. Should anyone contemplate a statement or behaviour that would embarrass FHC, they would receive the immediate wrath of fellow members. The result is a Club 'culture' that is positive, welcoming and supportive in so many ways.

Initiatives at the top end of our sport (and others) now expand the spotlight on Club environments by asking member clubs to highlight key themes, themes that can make great clubs even better places to be. At FHC we have chosen to underscore our support for three key 'themes' this year,

those being women's involvement generally in sport - and life! (rd 5), men's health (coming up – rd 10, June 25), and taking a stand against homophobia (rd 15, August 6th).

International Men's Health Week is celebrated every year around the world in the middle of June. It is an opportunity to highlight Men's Health and what it means to be healthy. It is a way of acknowledging the issues that relate to lower age expectancy for men, and how communities can improve this statistic. This is the first year that Hockey Victoria has designated a specific week in the hockey calendar for this theme, and at FHC we'll highlight the issue in the week leading up to our home game against Doncaster (Sat June 25).

Our specific theme for that week is around mental health for men, and the role that belonging to a sporting organisation can play in creating a sense of connection and an opportunity to engage in dialogue with each other.

We are currently organising a guest speaker to talk immediately after training on the Thursday of that week (8.30 pm, Thursday 23rd), and we're chasing-up past players to join us on the afternoon of the Doncaster game (Round 10, June 25th 12.30-3.30 pm) to watch the Men's games and socialise with each other afterwards. We'll also be advertising to Junior Section families to come along as 'fathers and sons' to watch the main games.

A great father-son experience, barracking for the young Bulldog squad against the top 4 Doncaster mens team featuring dual Olympian Russell Ford, and possible future Olympian Kiran Arunasalam.

We encourage all club members to make contact with any male players that they know (past and present) and get them along to the clubrooms on **June 25th** for at least some part of the afternoon. It would be a great opportunity to make reconnections with past members, have a few laughs and reminisce about 'the good old days'.

Julie-Anne Sheehan  
FHC Inclusion Ambassador  
0405061535



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## Giving our history a future

### FHC AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES!



I'm not sure how many of our members and friends are aware that FHC will have a direct connection to the forthcoming Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games, now just a couple of months away! Mens Section Senior Coach Josh Burt has been appointed as a Judge for the hockey competitions, and will be responsible for a variety of duties ranging from assessing the eligibility of players to compete, through to managing actual matches on game days (monitoring time, scoring, interchange, etc).

FHC has had a direct connection to quite a few Olympic Games over the decades, with some of the key moments captured forever in our history display cabinets. Next time that you have a few moments, enjoy having a look at our memorabilia related to things like:

- Back in the mid 1950's was the last time that our mens section was a 'permanent' member of the top grade in mens hockey in Victoria. Accordingly, in 1956 they were chosen to play pre-Olympic practice matches against several international teams (USA, Afghanistan). We have a terrific array of mementoes of those practice matches (including the official program which names all of the competing players, and several pages of player autographs), and the official Olympic matches themselves (we also have the official hockey program on display!).
- If you would like to know more about those times, talk to a man who participated – our own Alby Speed! Alby was one of well-known participants, including other Life Members Harry Browning and Alan Heriot, and our only ever Aussie senior player, Ben Acton.
- Ben not only played field hockey for Australia, he was also Captain of the Australian Ice-Hockey team at the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, California! Ben was our men's Club Champion Award winner for ten consecutive years (1947 – 1956), and was such a talented athlete

that he even trained with the mighty Western Bulldogs 1950's model, the Footscray Football Club. Our cabinets contain a terrific amount of Ben's memorabilia including his actual Australian shirt!

- In a key moment that led to the Australian men breaking their Olympic Games gold medal hoodoo at Athens in 2006, the team trained at FHC on and off for a month before setting off on their Athens campaign. See our great photo of the squad wishing Alby a happy 76th birthday after their training session on 25 March, 2006.

- In that photo is non-other than future FHC Senior Mens Section Coach, Travis Brooks! And who hit the winning goal in the gold medal play-off game? Non-other than young Trav.

We'll have to equip Josh Burt with a truck-load of FHC badges / pins to distribute to the world's best hockey talent as he clears them to play in Rio. Who know's what that could lead to in our future!

[Click here](#) to read the fascinating article that highlights the brilliant experiences that have taken Josh to every corner of the planet over the last decade. What a role-model for anyone else that might like to create a similar future in elite sports participation!



## Calling all volunteers - We need your help!

Have you completed your canteen duty this year? If not we have two events coming up and we need your help to ensure we're providing a great service to the hockey community.

### **GJ Gardner Junior State Championships**

Tuesday 28th June - Friday 1st July : 8.00am - 8.00pm

### **Southern University Games**

Monday 4th - Thursday 7th July : 8.30am - 6.00pm

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## Have you paid your fees?

As we are half way through the season it is very important that all members have paid their fees. The treasurer has emailed invoices out to all of those members with unpaid fees, please save your Section Director some time and get them paid asap!



Any member with fees outstanding (including payment plans) by 22nd June will not be eligible for selection from Round 10 onwards.

If you have any questions, please contact the treasurer [footscrayhockeytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:footscrayhockeytreasurer@gmail.com)

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## 2016 Women's Round



## Umpires required for Junior State Championships

The JSC is just around the corner and HV are looking for interested umpires to take part in JSC this year.

Run over 4 days, you will have access to coaching from many of our high level umpires, you will form friendships that last long after the event has ended and have a chance to try and apply the things you are instructed from your coaches in a timely manner.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Damien Deefholts on [ddeefholts@hockeyvictoria.org.au](mailto:ddeefholts@hockeyvictoria.org.au) or via 9448 2112.

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## Umpires also required for Southern University Games

Umpires are required for the Southern University Games running at Footscray Hockey Centre from the 4th July until the 7th July. The games will run throughout the day.

All umpires must be qualified to at least level one status. You will get paid for your time at \$30 PER GAME! Games are only 40 mins long and with 20 teams competing it could be some easy money for you.

If anyone is interested or knows of anybody then please contact David Knapton on [davidknapton23@gmail.com](mailto:davidknapton23@gmail.com) or mobile 0426 970 875.

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## A message from HV regarding Fitbits...

A reminder of the use of fitbits™ or other similar type or wrist worn fitness monitor:

These are considered watches under the regulations and must be hidden under tape or a sweat band.

Umpires and TO's have been advised of this and may ask any exposed unit to be removed.



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## 2016 Senior Presentation Night

This year the function will be held on Friday 30th September at The Yarraville Club.

As the Friday is a public holiday (AFL Grand Final Eve) there will be plenty of time to get dressed up and ready to go.

Further information regarding tickets will come out later in the year but please save the date!

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# HOCKEY HQ

## **\*\*Cyclone Jacket\*\***



**\$110**

**\$110**

We have had our first delivery of our Cyclone jackets which is now keeping some of warm on the sidelines.

Sample on display at Hockey HQ.

All jackets can be ordered to suit your sizing, for example if you are a M for size but sleeves are either too long or short this can be adjusted to fit you correctly at no extra cost.

**They are available by pre-order and our next order will be placed at the end of June so if you would like one please place your order in Hockey HQ.**

We have a couple available for sizing.

All orders must be placed by 25th June and will require a \$50 deposit and balance upon delivery approx. 8 weeks.

**NB:** Limited Stock of standard sizing will be kept in store.



