



# Puppy Press #3 March/April 2020

Hello Junior Families and welcome to the 3rd Puppy Press of 2020!

I have to be very honest with everyone, I've sat down to write this newsletter at least 5 times over the last two months, only to be filled with a sense of sadness and loss when I attempted to give our families some positive news. The last newsletter I sent out was full of hope and enthusiasm as we entered our pre-season phase and dove headfirst into training and HV Team and Shield Trials. I departed for Singapore on the 10th of March and returned to Australia after a week away to a hockey landscape turned upside-down. The FHC Board took the lead and made the correct decision to suspend operations. Keeping our members safe and healthy was the only thing on my mind when voting to suspend operations.

I know I'm not the only person to feel helpless and lost with no hockey to drive us into the weekend, Dave and Adi (my husband and daughter) are greatly missing our usual weekend engagements and my parents are missing the weekly phone calls from the car while we drive to our games (They get video calls now, so it's probably working out for them). I'm sure many of our families are feeling the same way leading into what would have been our Round 1 on Friday the 1st May.

So now, moving into some actual news that I can report to you!

Since my last newsletter, the FHC Board met (virtually) twice. These two Board Meetings have been mainly focused around finishing off and fitting out our brand new Pavilion.

- Brendan and Nicole are working hard with the council to rectify the final few defects with the Council.
- The old tables, chairs and bar stools have been put up for sale on Marketplace. If anyone is interested them for garages, sheds, bush shacks or other sporting/community groups, please contact our Treasurer Nick Gill [treasurer@footscrayhockey.com.au](mailto:treasurer@footscrayhockey.com.au)
- New furnishings, tables and chairs are being ordered.
- Notice-boards and pin-boards are being organised.
- Greg Hopkins has been busily returning our honor boards and premiership flags to their rightful places up high on the walls.



On Wednesday the 29th April I (virtually) took part in a HV forum with other Junior Directors. The purpose of this Forum was for HV to gather the preferences of HV clubs regarding a 2020 season. Preferences were sought on:

- Lead in time required for clubs once the go ahead is given.
- Preferred length of the season.
- Finals structure.
- Latest preferred end date.

This was not a forum to advise of a start date and it was not a forum to advise if or when JSC or Academy programs will commence. It was a reconnaissance mission by HV to determine how best to plan for a season if and when we get the go ahead to commence. HV remain hopeful that we will play hockey in some form in 2020. However, I wish to stress, it will not be as we are accustomed. The lead in time may be very short and for this reason, we should still be working on our stick skills and fitness to the best of our ability.

Practice your close in work, your stick skills, pretend your parents feet are goalies and get around them. Bounce a tennis ball or a hockey ball on the end of your stick. Put an eye mask on and practice dribbling foot to foot just by feel of the ball. Use this time to focus on the fundamentals of hockey. The small things that take your game up to the next level. The FHC Facebook page has a great Video Skills series by Lach Darcy, I encourage you all to jump on and break each skill down.

That's it for me! You'll hear from me as soon as I have any more information and we have an indication of a season. Until then, keep practicing, get out for a bike ride, walk or a run and stay active (please stay close to home). We don't know when the season will begin, but we need to be ready to go straight away when it does.

As always, if you need me you can call, message or email me at any time.

I'm hopeful I'll see you all soon!

Mel

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