

SOUTHERN UNITED



# Southern United Hockey Club

Junior Section

2010

Coaches Reports

U9's to U17's

# Firstly, a really big thank you

Firstly, a big thanks must go out to all who have helped make this year so good for all our players.

## Junior Committee

Alan Tilbrook – President  
Sue Jones – Umpiring co-ordinator  
David Rintoul – Weekly team entry on to Sporting Pulse  
Nicki Dann – Team Managers Manager  
Deb Gardiner – Secretary  
Julian Pratt – Junior Coaching co-ordinator  
Michael Campbell – Player registration and Sporting Pulse

## Grade group Co-ordinators

This is an important position which helps the age groups function and deals with communication across the teams. A big thanks to this group as their help was crucial at the start of the year getting the teams together, then managing issues arising during the season.

U17 – Deb Gardiner	Girls – Tim Cole
U15 – Rory Elston/Warren Davey	U13 – Fiona Wilson
U11 – Helen Abaniel	U9 – Ross Walker

## Coaches

This is one of the hardest areas to get right across all grades in the club, training times and days, work commitments and personal training commitments all have to align. Coaches give up their own time several times a week to help our children. Spend several hours planning how to help players improve their performance individually and as a team. With the club moving into higher grades and Hockey Victoria changing other grades several teams seem to not have performed as well as some might of expected. We should all realise the players have all improved in all teams. Success is a journey not a destination, some trains stop at all stations while others are express. We were lucky that several parents were keen this year to take on coaching. Coaching is an enjoyable job when things go right against all the odds. The U15 Souths epitomised this taking out the Grand final with a great performance even though they were coached throughout the season on game day by a parent and training by Warren Davey. We have some very good coaches in our ranks who are making huge difference to standard of our teams right across all grades. We welcomed several new coaches who performed really well. With several new initiatives coming on stream things are look very positive. Your coaches should be thanked and encouraged to continue in 2011. We need a least 28 coaches to ensure everyone has a coach.

## Goal Keeper Coaching program

In 2009 goalkeeper training was identified as an area we needed to develop a structured program for all our junior keepers. The committee would like to say a really big thank you to Trevor Jones for taking this on and developing a strong program with several top senior goalkeepers willing to help out every few weeks. We are hoping to continue this year on year. Well done Trevor.

## Team managers

This group, lead by Nicki Dann kept the teams functioning week to week and were the key to things running well. A big thanks from the committee for all your emailing and communicating to everyone and filling in match books.

U17 G A            Mara Symons, Sinead Vorrath, Nick Timms  
U17GD             Di McCaughley

U17A                Alan Hughes  
U17PSE            Veronica Parsons + Lynne Burgess  
U17 S               Narelle Anderson + Raelene Plozza

U15 GIRLS A      Simon Waring

U15A                Jade Blakkarly  
U15PSE            Ann Butler + Cathy Lee  
U15S (1)          Janelle Sheen  
U15S (2)          Tina Halls

U13 GIRLS A      Shae O'Brien

U13A                John Katsaras  
U13PSE            Pam Durrant  
U13S (1)          Carol Siedles  
U13S (2)          Cathy Peacock

U11A                Lisa Amiet  
U11S                Kyle Malligan  
U11PSE            John Leighton

U9S Red            Paul Duggan  
U9S Black          Anna & John Pease  
U9S Silver         John O'Connor

**Thank you all for your help**

## Season Summary

What a season!!! We have had our ups and downs across the junior sections but there is a lot to show we are going in the right direction. The performances on the field showed we are in good shape to withstand what most others throw at us: grading changes, playing at the highest levels. It is important not to compare this season with last year as players change each year. We are improving across the juniors on the two year Hockey Victoria age groups cycle.

Highlights are not just the two flags in U15's and U11's but the way so many players improved over the season and really showed how well they could play by season end, Some coaches said if the season was another 6 games some teams positions would have changed. The U11's and U9's are starting to show the rest of the competitions we are a real force to be reckoned with all three U11's in the finals and U9's topping of their grade. Saying that, if you just reviewed the results of some grades you don't get a clear picture of what went on in the different age groups. We are still dealing with HV removing all Pennant South grades to "improve hockey". This decision directly affects our 2nd teams in all age groups. We have been playing against several strong 1<sup>st</sup> teams from other clubs. Our U11PSE team's performance shows the depth of the group

Our U17 mixed group started the season with several player changes from the same teams in 2008 (the HV two year cycle) due to players from our U15A team leaving to play at Mentone. The whole player group took this in their stride and performed well. The club is finding so much change in the U17 age group with so many other interests, school commitments and events taking more of our juniors time. The Girls felt this hard all year. All teams finished the season with a solid base for a good 2011 season. This is the first year the clubs see a larger number of players completing the junior careers – they now have an opportunity to continue within our senior sections.

Our U15's age group started the year with good numbers for four mixed teams and the numbers only improved as the season went on. The Girls had too many for 1 team and too few for 2 so the committee ask if several players could play up into the U17GD team. The Girls did really well to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> behind a really strong Mentone improving on 2 years ago.

Through injury and unavailable players, we were rarely at full strength in the Shield team which was reflected in the results. As a group, they were competitive all season having some great results against the top teams. Our Pennant South East team didn't reach their full potential for several different reasons which are only pertinent to this season. The main group will change in structure for this team and that will only be a benefit as there was disharmony in the later rounds that were reflected in the results. The two South teams had very good seasons with the premiership being won by South 1. The group was a very good group that responded well to direction as the results showed. The main areas of improvement would have been achievable if there were more people available for the coaching roles. Having continuity from training to game nights and back to training would have been much more desirable. All in all, a very good group of kids that appeared to enjoy their hockey and seemed to be listening to the coaching and applying what they could.

Our U13's age group was faced with the situation at the start of this season with either having three teams in south and one in PSE which we would dominate or playing A, PSE and 2 South teams. The Coaching group after looking at all the pro's and con's of both, decided to go with the latter. We also had only just enough Girl who wanted to play on Saturday morning to run the U13 GA team. Numbers and depth of our squads was our Achilles heel. When we had several players away during the season our teams struggle against some very good opposition in all the

grades. This was a young group who have learnt so much about what is needed to perform and 2011 will be a stronger year.

Our U11's – well, words like amazing and awesome could be used. You ask why. The three teams we entered in to A, PSE and South all featured in finals. The A's only going down to a strong Altona in the GF, the South Grade, winners of the big one and the PSE unlucky not to advance to the grand final, drawing in the semi with the top side. All the players really showed how much they enjoyed hockey while developing some good basic skills. We welcomed many new players into this age group and built on many U9's great season's from 2009.

Finally our U9's have shown great promise. After marrying coaches with training location the U9's have gone from strength to strength with so many stars to mention. Some U9's had to play in U11's grade as they had out grown the smaller field of U9's. The focus on skills in action really showed with so many new players developing so quickly over the year. The club will continue to work hard to support this most important age group with our Minky program in 2011 and working with HV to improve the competition set up.

The club has been working hard behind the scenes in 2010 to develop ways we can improve all players in every grade. We were lucky this year to secure the services of John Mowat (ex VIS head coach) to run a "coach the coaches" program for all our junior coaches. This was co-ordinated by Ross Walker. It was a great success, with all coaches exposed to the top level methodologies on how to impart skills to all players.

Last year we started our Mckenzie's Skills Clinic series and we will continue this in October and November this year. We had just under 100 juniors attend this 6 week clinic and hope for a similar up take this year. Travis Brooks was our inaugural lead coach. This year we have secured Malcolm Kemp, current Australian youth team member and an ex-founding club member. We are grateful for our sponsors Mckenzie's Foods support, which has made this possible.

As a club one of our goals is to be a premier SL1 club by 2015 while still being able to offer all levels to our members. To this end we have now introduced the SUHA program aimed at preparing our players for the higher level needed to perform in HV top grades. Due the quality of the response from the membership the club is also developing a further program for the players who were not part of the first intake based on the same methodology.

When you step back and look at what we are now running – GK coaching, out of season coaching clinics (Mckenzie's), SUHA, the extra development group and Coaches development the level of hockey across the junior and therefore senior sections should improve year on year.

### **Finally - Sharks (State Championship Competition for U13, 15 and 17's)**

This year HV introduced a new zonal grouping for the State championships. Depending on how you look at the changes we will be better or worse off. On the positive side more of our players now have an opportunity to play at a rep level and receive further coaching as well as not having to worry about having our players being poached. On the negative side our region is weaker as we are now the only SL1 and A grade Junior club in the zone. The new zonal structures have created imbalances which were evident at the championships in all age groups. I think we use this change as a positive using it as a way for more of our juniors to be exposed to top competition. Our U17 boys representative just finished their competition this weeked with all 4 performing really well, helping the team to 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Bring on 2011

**Julian Pratt, Coaching Director**

# Southern United Teams 2010

## Rounds

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	SF	GF		
17A	0-0	1-6	1-3	0-4	1-7	8-1	4-2	2-0	4-6	0-7	0-2	2-4	4-5	0-3	1-2	7-1	2-1	2-2			7th	
17PSE	0-9	1-5	1-0	0-10	0-3	4-0	1-2	5-6	4-3	0-11	1-2	5-0	0-6	2-4	1-1	1-5	3-3	4-5			7th	
17S	0-3	0-4	2-2	0-3	3-4	0-5	2-4	0-4	Bye	0-7	0-9	1-1	1-6	0-6	2-9	Bye	0-8	1-5			7th	
17GA	1-7	0-3	0-3	4-2	2-1	3-0	2-6	2-3	0-5	0-15	0-4	0-9	1-4	2-1	2-0	1-5	0-5	1-1			8th	
17GS	Bye	Bye	0-4	2-7	1-4	1-2	1-5	0-5	0-2	0-13	0-5	1-7	1-6	1-5	0-4	2-1	1-0	0-8			9th	
15A	3-6	3-3	1-5	2-2	3-7	4-4	4-2	1-1	1-2	5-1	2-0	2-3	3-3	0-6	2-3	2-2	1-9	4-2			6th	
15PSE	3-6	1-2	1-2	3-0	3-3	2-6	5-2	Bye	4-1	1-5	1-3	0-1	3-1	1-8	4-2	0-2	bye	1-4			7th	
15S	6-0	4-1	4-1	3-3	9-3	2-3	5-0	4-0	2-4	2-3	4-3	8-3	10-1	5-2	3-5	0-2	4-2	4-1	2-1	5-2	MP	Grand Final Winners
15S 2	0-6	3-0	1-3	6-0	0-2	3-2	3-0	3-3	0-0	1-2	3-4	3-0	1-2	2-3	3-1	2-0	1-3	3-2	3-5		4th	
15GA	2-1	5-0	2-2	1-0	2-1	3-0	2-2	6-0	7-0	1-1	4-0	0-4	5-0	2-0	3-0	1-2	12-0	3-0	1-2		2nd	
13A	2-4	3-3	2-1	2-6	3-10	1-5	1-2	3-3	2-4	0-8	3-4	3-4	0-8	2-7	0-13	4-1	2-2	1-3			10th	
13PSE	0-6	0-0	1-4	1-4	0-3	0-4	0-0	0-4	0-4	0-1	2-1	2-2	1-3	0-2	0-1	0-2	0-11	0-3			10th	
13S	6-3	4-2	1-9	1-2	0-3	7-0	0-1	3-3	0-5	2-1	5-0	0-2	2-6	0-11	bye	1-1	2-3	3-3	1-3		4th	
13S 2	3-6	0-5	0-0	1-8	3-0	1-4	1-4	1-1	1-2	1-2	0-5	1-11	Folded team due to loss of players									
13GA	3-1	Bye	4-3	1-3	4-1	0-9	0-2	3-4	Bye	4-0	3-3	7-2	1-11	1-3	3-1	Bye	2-0	1-4	0-13		4th	
11A	9-0	2-0	2-4	2-2	3-1	7-0	0-2	1-0	4-0	6-0	0-1	4-1	2-2	4-1	3-1	1-2	2-0	1-1	3-2	0-3	2nd	
11PSE	5-0	3-1	1-0	1-4	2-0	4-2	4-0	2-3	1-2	4-0	1-0	0-1	0-7	1-1	5-2	0-0	3-2	4-7	0-0		4th	
11S	3-1	0-1	7-1	1-3	4-0	5-0	4-2	3-0	3-0	5-1	0-1	4-0	3-0	5-0	3-1	0-2	1-3	6-0	5-0	3-0	MP	Grand Final winners
9SR	3-8	1-5	5-0	4-3	5-3	7-6	7-0	3-9	5-2	0-5	2-2	2-4	2-5	1-2	5-1	6-0	0-2	8-1			6th	no finals
9SB	8-3	15-1	6-2	5-2	9-1	7-0	11-0	10-0	8-0	5-0	17-0	8-4	11-2	7-4	5-0	17-0	10-0	5-0			1st	Minor premiers
9S	1-3	2-5	1-10	2-5	1-6	5-2	1-5	0-0	2-5	9-1	2-10	2-6	2-11	2-3	5-0	1-0	1-2	1-8			8th	no finals

# Umpires Co-ordinators Report

With up to 24 umpires needed each week this can be a huge job but with such great support from such great people this job is made relatively easy.

Thank you to everybody who has umpired for SUHC this year.

Special congratulations must go to some of our rising stars.

**Simon Hall, Keenan Robbie** and **Gordon Meredith** all umpired at the Junior State Championships.

**Simon** has also been named the most improved junior umpire by Hockey Victoria.

**Keenan** this year has been a Hockey Victoria approved umpire assessor.

**Hayden Jones** has earned his Beginner Badge which is the second level of Hockey Victoria umpiring.

**Jarni Blakkarly** and **Nick Bonett** have both earned their Community Badge which the first level of Hockey Victoria umpiring.

I would also like to thank the umpiring team.

**Ashleigh Jones, Hayden Jones, Jarni Blakkarly, Nick Bonett, Daniel Sheen, George Katsaras, Mack Thompson, Callum Thompson, Chris Silvers, Regan Horn, Josh Erbacher, Tim Halls, Kirsty Gardiner, Josh Ephraums, Megan Brooks, Brad Byrne, Jack Marquadt, Adam Davey, Ben Davey, Tom Burgess, Jason Clarke, Bronwyn Clarke, Trevor Jones, Chris Hughes, Chris Abaniel, Simon Waring, Olivia Finlayson, Lachy Finlayson** and some of wonderful parents who stepped in at the last minute and those far and distant games.

Thank you again and keep up to good work.

Sue Jones

Junior Umpire Co-ordinator

SUHC

## 2010 Representative Players:

### **VPSSA State Team**

Nathan Ephraums

### **VSSSA U16 State Team**

Edward Arnold, Emma Cole

### **Hockey Victoria State Teams**

#### **U13**

##### **Boys**

Calvin Martinz (t/o)

#### **U15**

##### **Girls**

Molly Tilbrook, Freya Fajgman

##### **Boys**

Liam Schinina Daniel Sweeney Jarni Blackkarly (t/o)

### **Hockey Victoria U15 Development Squads**

**Boys:** Joshua Ephraums , Alex Ong

**Girls:** Kirsten Gardiner

### **Hockey Victoria U13 Development Squads**

**Boys:** Max Dalton, George Katsaras

**Girls:** Loren Tyrrell, Dana Rogers, Alice Arnold

### **Indoor Representative Teams (Played in Jan 2010):**

#### **U14 State**

Joshua Ephraums

#### **U14 Bushrangers**

Nathan Ephraums

Daniel Van Der Merwe

#### **U16 Bushrangers**

Jarni Blackkarly

### **Sharks Representatives:**

#### **U13's**

#### **U15's**

#### **U17's**

##### **Girls**

Loren Tyrrell

Ashleigh Jones

Alice Arnold

Hannah Cole

Alicja Gibert

Dana Rogers (Lightning)

Josephine Campbell

Freya Fajgman

Danielle Luskie

Molly Tilbrook

Kirsten Gardiner

Megan Brooks

Emma Cole

Alana Revell

Olivia Finlayson

Miffanwy Smith

Katleen Breede

Courtney Baron

Meg Linnell

##### **Boys**

George Katsaras

Max Dalton

Calvin Martinz

Joshua Erbacher

Nathan Ephraums

Jayden Gray

Cameron Wilson

Jarni Blackkarly

Hayden Jones

Liam Schinina

Daniel Sweeney

Jack Marquardt

Joshua Ephraums

Lachlan Whyte

Tom Symons

Daniel Van der Merwe (Eagles)

Campbell Jones

Lachlan Eddington

Edward Arnold

Tom Hamilton

Sharks – U13 Coaches – Tas Johnston & Traleen Neil



## **Minkey Program**

The 2010 Minkey program for Southern United continued to build on the successful foundations of 2009 - when the program was lead by Michael Stansby

This year we enlisted the help of Chris Abaniel, Mark and Kirsten Gardiner. With Chris and Mark's background in coaching we aimed to make each session fun with a lot of learning without realising it. With a group comprising most weeks of some 10 plus kids, the ages and level of hockey knowledge and ability were quite varied. All were catered for with several coaches on hand each week.

We suffered a bit from bad weather during July and August – for some reason it always seemed to rain on a Sunday mornings. Saying that the kids really want to come and play; forcing their parents to drive down to see if it was still on.

We graduated several players early as they were ready for full field games. By the end all players were keen to move on to the U9 or U11 ages in 2011. We will be losing several players as they are moving interstate for a few years but promised to return when they come back to Melbourne.

Well done **Kiki ,Flore, Anneka, Freya, Jasmine, Aden, Roman, Puck, Loretta, Remy the Twins, Alex and Meg** and all your friends you brought along to try out hockey

**Julian Pratt**

Minkey Coordinator

## Under 9's Silver

Coaching Under 9's is a unique experience and I encourage you to look for the opportunity to get involved with a team at this level.

Where else can you get enjoyment from seeing a player score their first goal, have their first win or look forward to singing the song and getting confused when you do not sing it after a loss?

There are other good experiences like seeing players skip after the ball (instead of running), run towards their best friend when the friend is dribbling with the ball (running into him or her and giving possession to the opposition), dribbling around in circles during the game (because that is what you did at training), drawing pictures in the sand (when the game gets boring), taking in the scenery or forming new relationships (chatting with your team mate or even the opposition about what they are doing on their birthday or what is the name of that bird).

Whilst I may have seen all these things this year coaching Under 9 Silver, the best thing from the coach's perspective is seeing improvement in the hockey being played at the individual and team levels and the smiles on the faces from having a good time.

This year a few of our players scored their first goals (including **Will McNess, Kurtis Langeder & Emily Butler**). People took on new roles (**Owen Vorrath** taking on centre half, **Michael Birkett** moving out of full back up to half back). Our passing got stronger as the year went on which meant players got involved in good structure, maintaining possession and switching the play (**Kate McNess, Ethan Vaserman, Maia O'Connor & Brodie Jensen**), no better than our big 9-1 win against Frankston. Others got recognised by opposition teams and spectators for their great skill, control and scoring (**Mark Edwards** with 17 goals from centre forward and **Nicola Brooks** 10 goals from right wing including one in the top corner and another runaway solo effort from half back – sorry for the detail, this is a proud dad writing).

I hope to see the team continue to develop through their years of hockey with Southern United like others I have coached (and they will know when I am watching because of the free advice).

Special thankyou's go to **Megan Brooks** for assisting with coaching, rotations and umpiring away games and **John O'Connor** for managing the team and issuing weekly emails (also **Ric Birkett** for filling in as manager for our winning games).

**Mike Brooks, Coach**

## Under 9's Black

This was a season memorable for the amazing spirit amongst the team, parent group, coaches and managers. I haven't previously seen such consistent commitment to supporting a team by both players and their parents at any level or age. It was rare not to have every family represented at each game by both player and one or more parents, with all families present at every social event.

A huge thanks to the **2010 Joint Team Managers of the Year Anna and John Pease**, who made life for everybody, in particular the three coaches, an absolute breeze. My joint coaches **Peter Paice** and **Ken Walker** should be proud of the significant impact they've had on the sporting pursuits of a group of talented and aspiring young hockey players. Thank you Peter and Ken for your efforts in developing both the technical aspect of the boys' games and nurturing a learning environment enjoyable to all. A big thank you also to **Phoebe Willcock** (under 9 Red coach), together with **Donny Fernandez** and **Tom and Liam Wegner** for their regular assistance in coaching the boys at training throughout the course of the season.

At the beginning of the season I recall pointing out to the parents in an email that the first objective was for the kids to enjoy the experience, the second, for them to learn something, and if both of those things could be achieved, then having some success would top it off. Undoubtedly, due to the collective effort of the extended team of players, parents, managers and coaches, we managed to achieve all three objectives.

The majority of the team had not played any hockey prior to this season and the on-field performance of the team and fast track development of those new players can be put down in large part to the way the few experienced players involved, engaged and embraced the new boys both on and off field so quickly. Credit in this regard to 'old hands' **Andre Fernandez, Christian van der Merwe, James Chilcott and Davin Walker**.

Of the new chums, our little pocket rocket **Lachy Paice** who turned 6 late in the season showed skill, courage and determination beyond his years. **Will Garbolotto** (age 6) demonstrated enormous athleticism and potential. If he chooses to put in the practice he could well achieve that potential.

**Rylan Pease** (age 7) proved that practice makes perfect in developing extremely good tight ball control. He just needs to believe that he is as good as we all know he can be.

**Cristian Camillo** scored more than his fair share of goals for a first year player and proved that he could perform at both ends of the ground. **Leon Glatz** demonstrated the legendary powers of German concentration and became an extremely competent and effective player in all positions during his first season, improving his skills significantly over the 18 weeks.

Of those that had played previously, 'veteran' **James Chilcott** really came of age late in the season showing great leadership in lifting his team to a win in a game where the opposition had outplayed us for the first 50 minutes. **Christian van der Merwe** and **Andre Fernandez** both made very significant improvement on the previous year becoming more team focused and improving their close ball control.

**Davin Walker** was untiring and industrious all year and continued to develop his skills, in particular his ability to take on the opposition. Only 3 players are ineligible to play under 9 again in 2011. We wish **Leon, Cristian Camillo and James** all the best in moving onto the 'big ground'. Six year olds **Lachy** and **Will** together with 7 year old **Rylan** are eligible again for under 9's next year and we wish them and their coach **Peter Paice** the best of luck.

**Andre** and **Christian van der Merwe** are eligible to play under 9 again in 2011, whilst **Davin** is eligible for another 2 years. However it is likely that these three boys will play under 11's which will be a terrific challenge for them all, but one I'm sure they will enjoy.

In all, a very enjoyable season for myself and I suspect all involved. Thanks everyone.

**Ross Walker (Under 9 Black – Joint Coach)**

## Under 9's Red

It has been my privilege and pleasure to take care of and coach the under 9 reds this year.

It has been wonderful to see a group of individuals with an amazing variation in talent and personalities come together as a team. We have players who have played under 9's for a couple of years to some who are in their very first season of hockey.

As a coach it is a daunting task to cater for all their needs and personalities, extend them and make it fun!!! It has been fantastic to have the help of **Ken Walker** and **Ross Walker** on Training nights and to then have the support of **Jeremy De Sylva**, **Mark Lambert**, **James Erbacher** and **Rob Marais** on game days.

Thanks must also go to **Joshua Erbacher** who did a wonderful job umpiring many of our games and thanks to all the wonderful parents for their support each week getting the players to training and games and providing oranges and lollies.

Starting from the back line I have been very proud of how **Markus Duggan** has become a confident defender and has ventured forward and scored towards the end of the season. There was one game when I think **Markus** got hit on the foot or ankle about 3 times but he was gutsy and kept on tackling.

**Harvey Macalpine** has a good eye when the ball and player is coming towards him and enjoyed playing in defence more than when he was put forward or mid field. Harvey developed a great hit out of defence as well.

**Sam Youds** always shows guts and determination in defence with a good eye for the ball and proved he can score goals to.

**Oliver Erbacher** playing in his first season started out just wanting to play in defence and half way through the year suddenly decided he could run and pass and call and scored several goals in the second half.

**Harvey De Sylva** in his first year was keen and enthusiastic to play anywhere on the field and ran his heart out every game. **Hayley** a first year started out up front calling and running forward and also proved a good little player mid field and always with great enthusiasm.

**Emily** was also playing her first season and improved dramatically over the season. In the second half it was great to see her trapping the ball, turning it around and passing it and even scoring.

**Kester Duggan** proved the quiet mid fielder who worked hard at staying out wide and learnt to get the ball and pass it up front.

**Craig Marais** proved to be the ultimate team player. His strength in the mid field and his passing skills along with his running up in attack and scoring 44 goals for the season along with getting back to defend were awesome.

**Craig** showed his team mates that if you keep running, push and hit hard and pass you can do anything.

Congratulations to my team and once again thanks to all the families for your support.

I trust you will all be back next season and enjoy and long hockey career.

Regards, **Phoebe Willcock**, Coach

## Under 11 South - Premiers

Our Under 11 South, started the season pretty well. We had more wins than losses and we ended up third to qualify for play finals. The guys played brilliantly in the semi with a 5-0 win and then taking the lead first in the Grand Final. The opposition came back instantly to make a close game but everyone played strong to the end to come out triumphant 3-1.

Our year started by inducting four youngsters **Jarrad, Henri, Zach** and **Luka** from last year's Under 9 to 11. The boys developed really well throughout the year and contributed by regularly scoring. One highlight is **Henri's** very first hockey goal. Well done.

We also welcomed to Southern United **Alice** who came from UK. This young girl showed enormous potential and I look forward to tracking her progress for many years. Three new players to hockey were also welcomed to SU. **Imogen, Mechaela** and **Isabella** are natural athletes who quickly learnt and developed as great hockey players throughout the year. A most enjoyed highlight by everyone was **Imogen's** fist pump as she scored her very first goal too.

AS the season progressed our team of 12 grew to 16 more new players wanted to play. I am very proud of **Mathew, Niamh, Sofia** and **Oliver** who quickly adapted to the team. They worked hard and found that they were able to play as good as everyone else in no time. **Niamh** and **Sofia's** "I'll give it a go" attitude showed that if you have ago and put in the effort you will enjoy and get more out of the game.

To our second year Under 11s who were role models to a lot of our new and young players – I thank you. **Patrick** showed his dominancy by scoring goals week after week. Just had to get it in the circle and he was having ago. While **Anika** stood tall and our opposition found it very hard to get around her strong defence. A quote from the movie Polar Express 'BELIEVE' comes to mind when thinking of your **Darcy** who provided plenty of enthusiasm to the team. Keep up the good work **Darcy**. Finally to **Charley**, she was just everywhere, she scored goals, assisted in defence and offense, showed great understanding of the game and leadership whom her teammates looked up to.

Good luck to you all next season and thank your parents for supporting you.

Lastly, on behalf of the players and families we thank you Kyle for being a great team manager and extend our thanks to **Ned** for giving up a great deal of his time to assist and show the players how to play this game of ours. Thank you all – I've enjoyed coaching you – see you next year

**Chris Abaniel, Coach**

## **Under 11 Pennant South East**

At the beginning of the year we formed a team with 4 new coaches and a group of new players eager to learn. None of us knew what to expect from this group of players, but it quickly became evident that it would be a successful season. The team gelled quickly and got off to quick start of 3 wins thanks to solid contributions from the entire team. **Rhys, Pim** and **Hannah** were dominant through the midfield by out working and out classing our opponents. The forwards worked well to offer different avenues to goal and we soon had many different goal scorers in **Daisy, Raul, Jackie and Emma**. Our dynamic forward structure proved too strong for the competition as we stood at 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the half way point of the season and looked in a good position to make a strong run at the finals

In the second half of the season our team was affected by injury and player movement but like all champion teams we responded and rose above adversity. We began to see our defensive pairing of **Luke** and **Harry** really progress and develop up to a higher level. With contrasting styles our defence began to dominate and shut out other teams. **Luke's** charging runs from defence set up our offense and **Harry's** powerful and crisp hitting cut teams apart. This was complimented perfectly by **Oskar's** resolute tackling and strong presence. This was demonstrated in a last minute 1 nil victory over Mentone in round 11. Soon our team was bolstered by reinforcements, with **Meg, Alex, Ashley, Charlie** and **Olivia** joining our team and giving us an extra spark towards the end of the season

Our finals campaign commenced with a semi final draw to top-placed Knox that resulted in us being knocked out because we were the lower ranked team. This was beyond doubt one of our best games throughout the year. Our team had improved and showed significant ability in outplaying the dominant team of the year but unfortunately did not come up with the win. Overall it was a successful year with all players showing promise to be high-quality hockey players.

**Vaughan, Joey, Matt and Chris, Coaching Team**

## **Under 11 A**

No report provided

## Under 13 Girls A

Pre-season was an interesting time with constant questions if the team was going ahead. With a team list of only 8 players up until the week before the season started it was looking doubtful. We kept training regardless and in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour we found enough players to start the season with 12. Our next challenge was finding a goalie. The decision was made to rotate it around all of the players, starting with **Dana**.

Round 1, here we go, the big test! I should never have worried. Everyone played like champions! **Dana** started off the season with a solid effort in goals. **Laura** had an awesome game at left half not only playing a good competitive game but in a position that she'd never played before, learning as she went. She continued this fine form throughout the season. All of the senior girls (**Ashleigh, Alicja, Hannah C, Dana, and Tyrian**) really stepped up and helped support the younger girls at the start the season.

**Dana** decided to take on the challenge of playing goalie full-time for us. She was ably assisted by **Alicja** as full back which proved to be a strong combination. The season continued and we were looking pretty good, winning the first 4 games. Everyone was improving and getting the hang of their positions. **Tyrian** and **Grace** showed their flexibility and willingness to help out the team by playing in multiple positions. **Tyrian** eventually settled in at right inner highlighting her impressive fitness skills and running out games, still attacking the whole time.

Our attacking short corners were very effective with multiple people learning how to pull the ball out to a stellar combination of **Loren** and **Ashleigh** at the top. This coupled with our strong defensive short corners with **Casey** and **Alicja** regularly stopping balls from the posts meant that we were strong contenders for finals.

**Bobbie** (otherwise known as **Hannah-Rose**) joined the team a few weeks into the season. It took us a few weeks to find her niche, where she completed the already strong defensive line with **Alicja** and **Dana**. Her aggressive tackling really dented the offences attack time and time again.

We hit a rough patch in the middle of the season coming up against the teams in the top 4. The girls didn't sway. They kept pushing the oppositions attack and even received several compliments from the opposition coaches. Unfortunately, not coming away with wins but keeping steady. **Hannah C** and **Freya** were put to the test ensuring that their wings didn't get much of the ball and pinching it off them when they did. Their tackling skills improved as the season went on.

**Ashleigh** proved to be a stalwart in the centre. Receiving the ball from the backline and distributing out to the inners and the wings. **Hannah M, Georgie** and **Isabel** (wings) worked well with **Laura, Tyrian** and **Loren** (inners) to receive the ball and move it into the circle.

Our rough patch ended and we picked up again, finishing the season in 4<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, that meant we were playing Footscray in the first round of finals, a daunting task. Buoyed by the fact that we were one of the few teams that had scored even 1 goal against them for the season we gave it our all. We played a hard game and I was really proud of how all the girls played for the day. Proving just how far they have come over the course of the season. **Dana** especially had a blinder stopping every single first shot on goals for the game.

I'd like thank all of the parents this year and especially **Shaie**, as team manager, for all your support and willingness to help out when required and finally all the positive cheering for all members of the team.

Thank you to all the girls in the team it was a pleasure coaching you this season. Good luck for the summer season and I look forward to seeing you all playing again next year.

**Bronwyn Clarke, Coach**



## Under 13 South (1)

Coaching is a very rewarding activity and it is great to reflect at the end of the season how far the players have come. During the journey there are so many ups and downs, obstacles are put in our way, things do not turn out as planned and priorities change. The U13 South 1 team experienced everything this season on their journey to play better, stronger and compete against top teams from other local clubs.

Most of our team were either new to club hockey or first year players from U11 south 2009. The first few rounds were used to work out whether players should be in south (2) or PSE so we experienced some changes. We even had several guest appearances from players turning up at the wrong grounds. As the season wore on it was always interesting and sometimes worrying (especially for **Carol** our wonderful team manager), who was going to turn up on game day. This really struck home in round 3 when we suffered a broken down car and two late sickness pull outs leaving 9 players and no goal keeper while playing 6pm at the SNHC going down 9-1 to a rampant Knox. Finally we went from famine to feast with 20 players being available by round 18 as remarkably, everyone became available and we welcomed several new players **Liam** and **Ashley**, who were really keen to join our club.

In round 4 we welcomed **Bryce** as our Goal keeper only to lose him due to a broken hand after only a few games. When he did return for our final game in the semi final against Frankston he showed great maturity and confidence in dealing with numerous 1 v 1's when we were pressing for the win. Goal keeping stocks look good for 2011 in U13's.

With so many new and developing players, skills and game play understanding were the major focus for the team this year. Saying that the team decided that they we had to have as much fun as possible learning all those new things. It was never dull, **Bob** was introduced as a new player in round 8 confusing all, **Lucy** won the best dressed goal keeper even though her true calling was CH. We were always up even after losing.

**Hannah Moss** from the Girls team, kindly helped out in hour of need and then said she wanted to continue to play for us and said it wasn't because we had Freddo Frog prizes that week. Soon afterwards we were lucky to welcome **Chelsea** to the team who after a few weeks settling in forged a great strike force combination with **Jayden** and **Harris**. Quick interchanges of passes and unselfish play lead to some great goals in the second half of the season (Usually scored by Jayden (22 out of 29)). One of our best was **Harris's** first club goal, a great U bend shot which bamboozled the Frankston keeper. Our engine room of **Cal, Lucy and Bella** held the midfield well. They had a lot to learn in their new roles and did not stop working to be better. **Josh, Tom, Matt** and **Rachelle** forged a solid defensive unit with good support from our utility player **Jack**, who even though new to hockey was willing to help out in attack, defence and midfield.

A special mention should go to all the South (2) players who joined the team in round 14, even with the swelling of numbers the drain from above still meant we only manage to field 11 players for several weeks. **Owen, Steve, Coxy, Marco, Bradley, Ben, Matt and Jarrad** thank you. Training was always a challenge with so many in the group. Thanks must go the **John, Andrew, Chris, Warren, David** and the other parents who stepped into help when coaches were absent or we needed extra help.

Finally I should mention our semi final. Finals are always high pressure, fast and highly competitive. ALL the players really rose the challenge showing how far they had come. Special mentions must go to **Bryce, Owen, Bob (Josh to his family), Cal, Bella, Chelsea, Harris and Jayden** who played some of their best hockey that night (so far). We pushed the eventual Premiers so hard and could have snatched the win.

Thank you for allowing me coach you in 2010 **Julian Pratt**

## Under 13 South (2)

This year we started the season with 4 under 13 teams but due to illness, long term injuries and families moving out of Victoria, it was decided to collapse the 4<sup>th</sup> team in July and disperse the team amongst the other under 13 teams for the second half of the year to ensure that the remaining teams had enough players to field a full team each week.

However whilst the team was together we were competitive and able to unearth some new talent and build on the skills of some of the second and third year players.

**Bradley** played a solid game in goals each week and kept us in many games with excellent support from **Owen** and **Campbell** who repelled many attacks from the opposing teams.

Our half back line which mainly was made up of the following players **Coxy, Ben, Jameson** and **Stephen Attard** linked in well with the full back line and the forwards to move the ball fluently and as the season progressed became more confident in their own abilities and constructed some dangerous forward moves

Our forward line consisting of **Marco, Mathew, Jarrad** and **Stephen Georgeallis** started to link in better with their team mates and with further experience in relation to positional play and stick skills will further improve the overall quality of these players.

I would also like to thank **Cathy Peacock** for doing a fantastic job as team manager as she did a lot of running around sourcing players from other teams and communicating with the team regarding venues etc.

I would like to wish all of the players all of the best for their future seasons with the club and thank them for their efforts this year.

Regards  
**Andrew Armstrong, Coach**

## Under 13 Pennant South East

The Under 13 Pennant South side had a fairly tough year. A year when you win 1 game and draw 3 doesn't look that flash. However that raw data doesn't show the massive improvement and commitment the team as a whole made.

Before I go any further I should really thank the parents for making the season long commitment to bring the players to training and games. A special thanks to **Pam Durrant** for her excellent organisational work in getting the team to arrive on time and at the right place every week.

We had 27 players come through the team this year. **Nick O'Callaghan and Matilda Maher** being 2 new players we picked up during the course of the season.

We lost our super goalie **Cam Tassell** at the mid season break after his family returned to England. He played incredibly well for a first year goalie and the club will be very sorry to lose such a good young talent. Fortunately we had **Brad Richardson** step up and fill the void for the next few which saw him play some great games and was our goalie during our only win for the year. We eventually finished the season with yet another goalie, **Bryce Marquardt** in goals. **Bryce** finished off the season with some excellent games and will have a great future at the club.

We had a number of guest players from the shield side during the year. Thanks to **Loren, Regan** and **Lachlan** for their help.

We also had a number players come to help us from the South sides. One of those being **Jameson Armstrong** who starred for us in our win putting in both goals we scored. Thanks to **Matt, Owen, Jarrad, Cal** and **Jayden**.

The players that we had week in week out developed into a good core group that had to deal with a lot of changes on a weekly basis. **Marcus, Adam** and **Campbell** really played well as our main defensive group. They were ably assisted by our mid field of players that included some very attacking players in **Nick Davey, Billy Roberts, James "Jimmy" Gleeson, Riley Sawyer** and **Stephen Georgiallis** and a few defensive mid fielders in **Rees Leighton, Tom Durrant** and **Stephen Attard**.

Our forward structure was an area that we struggled with. As mentioned above we had a lot of mid field players but struggled to find any one player that was happy to occupy the centre forward position. We did however have a number of wingers with **Laura Cox** and **Joshua Mathew** being our main weapons up front.

We started the year as a very young team with a lot of first year U13 players. As the year progressed I believe we found a good solid group of players that worked well as team. This group really responded well to the training sessions and it was fantastic to see these skills and plays come out at games. There are so many positives that came out of this season that I hope the kids enjoyed playing with this team as much as I enjoyed coaching them.

I look forward to seeing them all around the club next year. **John Leighton, Coach**

## Under 13 A

The under 13A side had a tough year, which included 2 wins and 3 draws. While it may seem like our performances were not as good as we would have hoped, several of our results were decided in the last few minutes of games that could have gone either way and in the end our final position on the ladder came about from a few games where we were unable to take our chances.

Our team was led by captain **Jayden Gray** and I'm pleased to say that we were able to give 17 players the opportunity to play A grade hockey as well as 2 under 11's who helped out on a couple of occasions. It is a privilege to play in the top side for your age group and I hope all players enjoyed the chance and will strive to play A grade hockey in their future junior careers.

We were also proud of our 7 players selected for the Southern Sharks sides; boys – **Jayden Gray, Josh Erbacher, George Katsaras, Cameron Wilson, Nathan Ephraums** and for the girls – **Ash Jones and Loren Tyrrell**.

Our forward line scored 34 goals for the year, led by **Nathan Ephraums** with 10. He fought alongside a mix of both quick and skilful players including **Jayden Gray, George Katsaras, Mac Thompson, Riley Sawyer, Loren Tyrrell and Austin Jacob**. To score this many goals given the quality of the competition and the relative inexperience of the side compared to the other teams is an excellent achievement.

Our defensive line was led by goalie **Cameron Wilson** who had an excellent season, especially given the amount of pressure applied by some of the top sides. Our backs confidently absorbed attacks from strong opposition and assisted our strikers moving forward. **Cameron** was primarily assisted by **Tom Youds, Ash Jones, Josh Erbacher, Lachlan McLeod, Callum Wilson, and Regan Horn** with **Bill Roberts, Tom Durrant and Rees Leighton** having opportunities to move through from the Pennant South East side.

I'd like to thank James Erbacher, who assisted me throughout the year, and took over at times when I could just take no more! Also, John Katsaras, my team manager, who made sure the season ran smoothly and that everyone arrived at the right place at the right time. Also a thank-you goes out to the parents, who week in, week out are shuttling kids all over Melbourne, supplying snakes and oranges. My final thank-you goes to **Hayden Jones and Josh Ephraums**, who, when I'd been help up at uni or work, would organise my team, take stretches, warm up my goalie and get trainings started. Without all of you, things just don't run as they should.

Finally, to the players: I hope you enjoyed the season, and even though results didn't always go our way, don't be discouraged. You each proved that you are able to play excellent hockey; work hard to develop your skills and understanding of the game, and in two years' time, fight to regain your spot in the A grade competition.

**Michael Pearce, Coach**

## Under 15 A Girls

This years under 15 team had a very successful year finishing 2nd and just losing in the semi-final to Footscray. The team improved throughout the year and everyone contributed each week.

The forward line of **Lilly, Hayley, Jett, Peta, Madzz** and **Katelyn** we consistent performers each game, and Jett in particular smacked some great shots into the back of the net. This could only have occurred after consistent mid field efforts from **Kirsty, Megan, Danni** and **Courtney**.

**Danni** joined the club and played her first game 3 days after arriving in Melbourne and immediately she had a positive effect on the team and by the end of the season everyone was getting along really well.

Our backline of **Sam, Bronte** and **Jo** held their own, especially when the heat was on and **Maddie** made some great saves on the goal line.

Our toughest games this year were against Mentone and Footscray and in both instances the girls played to a very high standard. The skills that were shown during the game proved to me that they had learnt something during training sessions even if they couldn't stop talking during training. This led to a lot of push-ups and sit ups throughout the year, so the girls will at least have stronger arms!

The team has a lot of potential and I hope that they all learnt something this year and that they continue with their hockey, stay together and progress as a team.

I would also like to thank **Simon Waring** for managing the team and also helping out at training and also to **Greg Edwards** for helping at training as well.

**Jacky Jacob**  
Coach

## U15 South (1) - Premiers

What a year! This was the other half of a fantastic group of boys that I had the pleasure of being involved with. To have them go through the season and win the Grand Final was a brilliant result and well deserved. I would have preferred a Grand Final that involved both of the Southern teams and the final outcome to be a draw but that couldn't be.

A huge thank you to **Bryce, Janelle, Craig** and **Ken** for their help through the season. I would also like to thank the parents that passed on their thanks to me, it was a pleasure and you should all be proud of your boys!

Training was always interesting, wet more often than not it seemed. I have to say that we got more boys at training on wet nights than I ever dreamed we would. Their efforts at training showed in the games they played. Our training sessions were always a little different, **Rob** in goals proved to be the most fun. He never failed to get my attention! Our back up goalie, **Flynn**, while most adept in goals proved to be a revelation in the Grand Final on the field and played the game of his season. You could see how much he improved as the game went on, well done!

The rest of the team was made up of people that were committed and played their hardest as well as playing for the team. Their passing and backing up was excellent and it was this teamwork that shone at training as well.

I saw a different side to the boys at training than what they showed in the games so I will comment more about their attitudes at training than anything else. **Stuart** always had a reason why he couldn't train at 100% but did anyway! **Daniel** for his efforts to expand on the basic drill. **Nick** and **Marlon** for their willingness to get the ball into the circle and score. A very important trait we need to see more of. **Alex** and **Lachlan** for their efforts at training but also their ability to make me smile regardless of how grumpy I got. **Ashwin, Darragh** and **Liam** for constantly applying themselves and the improvement over the season that they showed. **Adam** for being so solid in his defensive work and also with the driest sense of humour in the team. **Fraser, Callan** and **Oscar** for their efforts. Incredibly dependable guys that were so solid in everything they did.

I hope that you all could see the improvement in your games that I saw. A lot of the improvement came from your willingness to listen and try what you were shown. This is then reflected on the field when you play. Considering we trained the two teams as a squad at the same time, the teamwork on both teams was excellent.

Good luck to you all in the next season and I hope to see you all out there playing again.

Thanks.  
Warren Davey

## Under 15 South (2)

At the start of the season, I was introduced to a bunch of kids that were here to play U15 hockey. I didn't know many of them but it didn't take long to discover that their personalities were all quite memorable for one reason or another. Although I didn't get to see a lot of the games, I did spend a lot of time training them for the games! It's at training that you really get to see who it is you have that will be going out to play on a Friday night.

Most nights at training were rewarding experiences for me as I could see the development in each of the players. I didn't have to see the games to know what they were learning and how they were adapting to it. This team finished fourth and may have been knocked out of the grand final by Frankston, but they didn't embarrass themselves and can hold their heads up high as they had a great year.

The team had two new players at the start of the season, **Michael** and **Nathan**, and both have grown in confidence and ability throughout the season and will do well next year. We met **Zach** late in the season and unfortunately he didn't qualify to play in the finals, we did get a permit for him to play if there were injuries. Fortunately, no-one was injured, unfortunately he couldn't play. What he lacks in experience, he makes up with enthusiasm. Speaking of enthusiasm, you can't go past the infectious energy and enthusiasm from **Johnny** and the sheer thirst for knowledge from **Harrison**. There are a couple of guys that are a necessity for every team!

I have to mention Mr Dependable, (**Darren**), in goals who I have known for a few seasons now and am hugely impressed in his development in goals. **Ben** and **Daniel** are two others that train pretty well but play so much better. Great effort guys! The first game I watched you two play, I was hugely impressed.

Every team has its characters and I would be failing if I didn't mention the following characters and the joy they brought me, (and the frustration some times as well!) **Tyler**, **Ryan** and **Callam** were always doing something at training that would make me smile. **Ryan** and **Callam** with their easy smiles and comments, **Tyler** with his antics when he was bored. At least when it came to game time, you all went out to play the best you could. You made me proud, and smile! **Chris** had a brilliant season, from day one, he just kept improving right to the end of the season. A pleasure to coach! **Nick**, **Tim** and **Nicholas** were also a joy to work with. Tim had a sly grin but I knew he was listening. **Nick** and **Nicholas** were generally quiet, but that was only because they were concentrating so hard.

All of you showed great endeavour over the season and were fun to coach. A huge thanks to Andy for organising the boys on game nights and the rumour going around is that you quite enjoyed it, but I won't tell the boys that! Another huge thanks to **Tina** for being the manager of the team and making sure things were organised through the season.

Lastly, it was fantastic to see all of the support at the final as well as throughout the season by the parents and siblings that came to watch. As a group, this team, the parents and siblings, were excellent to be associated with and made coaching such a rewarding experience.

Thanks for your support. **Warren Davey**

## Under 15 Pennant South East

What a busy year! There was a lot to try and achieve and I think we came close to achieving what we were aiming for. The ladder position didn't accurately represent the effort that was put in. We have to remember that we were our clubs second team and were quite often playing other clubs first team. That being said, the team generally performed quite well and the difference was quite often only one or two accomplished players on the other team.

Our training venue didn't quite have the "club" feel that Farm Rd has but it was still warming to get so many at training week after week, especially when you think of how many nights we trained in the rain! I sincerely thank everyone that kept coming to training and made it worthwhile.

We only had one incident all year worth noting and that was the unfortunate accident **Liam Eddington** had at training. It was quite a shock to hear that he had broken his femur. More so when you consider that it happened while kicking a soccer ball and didn't involve any other players! We are looking forward to seeing **Liam** back on the field as soon as he is able.

We had a team of characters that made each gathering interesting and some of the conversations were very enlightening! **Steve Hunt** and **Steve Athaide** were both able contributors on the field and in the conversation stakes. **Loki Whyte** was also notable for his contributions to the conversations. Fortunately, what is said on the field stays there! Nick gave me a nick name that thankfully didn't catch on. Shaun continued his fashion presence at training with his millinery choices. Fortunately, that didn't catch on either!

Game nights were always interesting; trying to gather a group of kids on a Friday night after a long week and focus them towards playing a game is a challenge! Thanks to **Dechlan** for consistently appearing out of nowhere, usually late but always focused and ready to play. Thanks to **Tristan** for his cheeky grin and his constant chatter as we were getting ready, always the last thing I wanted to hear too, but usually enough to make most of us smile.

I would like to pay tribute to **Nick, Alex** and **Isaac** for their improvement over the season. I always knew what **Alex** had to offer and we got to see that, but the improvement from Nick and Isaac as the season progressed was fantastic. **Ryan** and **Nathan** were incredibly solid, and these five were the reason we stayed competitive through most of the games.

Our forward line was always fun to watch because you never knew who was going to pop up where or when. **Theo** and **Ben** were always trying and were prone to flashes of brilliance that left your jaw hanging. It was unfortunate that they couldn't convert onto the scoreboard more often for their own sakes. **Dechlan** was always trying to apply what I asked and was invariably mixed up in our forward play somewhere. The two **Steve's** were both exhilarating and exasperating to watch but I would have them in my team any day! **Shaun** was very dependable, every time he was asked to go on and do a specific task, he gave it everything he had. **Loki** was **Loki!** Some great saves through the season. Always fun to watch in goals. **Tristan** was always the surprise package in the middle as he had a large bag of tricks and was always dipping into the bag and pulling something out!

A great season as it was enjoyable to be a part of and I hope the parents got the same enjoyment from watching as I did being involved. A huge thank you to all of the parents and their support for me and I appreciate all the positive comments I have received. The group may not have finished on top on the ladder, but they finished on top in my eyes!

Thanks for the season guys!  
**Warren Davey, Coach**



## Under 15 A

It's difficult to paint in a matter of words an accurate picture of the Under 15 A side's year. In short, it was a strange one indeed.

Our early feelings of confidence soon turned to late-season anxiety as a raft of near losses and drawn games left us in contention for relegation by the penultimate round. We managed to stave off that threat but it wasn't without a hint of drama – a theme that characterized much of the season. Ironically, that victory left us in sixth, equal on points with fifth, and just out of finals contention.

The pre-season started full of promise with the arrival of **Alex Ong** and **Jack Marquardt** in Round 4 – boom recruits that became integral parts of the team. **Daniel Van Der Merwe** also came across in Round 10, bringing immediate results as we downed TEM 4-1 for arguably our best win of the season.

But we soon worked out that our greatest challenge would not come from heavyweights Camberwell or Yarra Valley – it would be getting a full squad on the field every Friday night. We lost co-captain **Liam Schinina** with a hamstring complaint, a huge disappointment as he had an outstanding pre-season and showed great maturity in the games he managed. There were a string of other injuries and absentees throughout the year, including a broken hand to defender **Hayden Jones** and the loss of **Tom Symons** mid-year.

But challenges present opportunities, and it was great to see some individuals emerge and assert themselves as key players. **Ben Wilson** was magnificent as a striker. Having spent much of his junior career as a defender, he displayed great versatility and hockey nous to play the season as a high-forward, netting some superb goals along the way.

**Molly Tilbrook** was another that impressed, wreaking havoc for opposition defences down the right hand side with pace, sharp skills and a mature hockey brain. She was joined in attack by **Jarni Blakkarly**, who led our scoring and was a reliable pivot man at centre-forward. **Chris "Mini" Silvers** also spent his time up forward and showed genuine improvement and an ability to get to dangerous positions as the season progressed.

The relentless defensive skills of **Ned Dann** at left half, combined with the composure and creativity of **Josh Ephraums** at right enabled the side to both repel and launch attacks at pivotal stages throughout each game. **Adam Davey** and **Nathan D'Souza** were also regular contributors in our back four, providing additional support during important games.

**Hayden Jones** and **Josh Elston** proved a solid combination down back, performing admirably under a constant barrage of pressure. Goalkeeper **Freya Fajgman** was equally as effective on the last line of defence, keeping the side in a number of tight encounters with some outstanding reflex saves and desperate defence.

Despite the results not falling our way, it was heartening to see genuine improvement from individuals. I wish the players all the best and hope they take the lessons learnt this year with them throughout the remainder of their playing days.

**Mark and Rob, Coaches**

## Under 17 Girls South

The season started for the girls on a bit of a back step, being there was plenty of enthusiasm, just not enough players able to fill two teams, though with some brand new young players (young I mean under 15's due to the abundance coming through this age group) we were able to collect enough girls to adequately field a district's team. Doing this would entitle all girls; district as well as the A's to have plenty of game time.

The girls were extremely eager and ready to play even though they were coming into the competition 2 weeks after the season had started.

The likes of **Rachel, Maddy, Kate, Lana & Rebecca** who had played with each other the year before made it easier for the group to bind. With all girls quite fluent and skilful they provided a good solid base for the new "younger" girls to slot into the team. All 5 girls were able to play any position I placed them in (though they had their favourites possies) this made it easier for me to construct a equal stable field, especially on those nights when the field only had 7 black and red dressed girls running around.

**Jessica, Hayleigh and Caitlyn** progressed fantastically, each week growing more and more confident. **Jessica** and **Hayleigh** both become star defenders with **Caitlyn** being a striker that would hassle any defender.

**Stephanie and Alex** both entered the team with skills either from similar sports or had played Hockey awhile before, **Stephanie** coming from a soccer background was good in transferring her skills across, though her soccer skills showed when she had times in the goals. Alex dusted off the cobwebs and shone when on the field.

**Kathryn & Elana** both being the eldest in the group, provided forces to be reckoned with. **Elana**, as she ran from one side of the field to the other, every game she was a solid work horse, providing many opportunities for our forwards. Kathryn as she was the one that was always found lingering on the wing or on the goal post, ready to pick up any loose balls.

The return of **Emily** and **Jordana** provided strength and skills for the team. Both girls would out perform any opposition with their skills and endurance.

Though the score at the end of all the games did not reflect the efforts and opportunities that were had, all girls should be proud of the efforts that they showed in every game.

All girls were a pleasure to coach and the laughs that were had made up for the extremely late night games that seemed to have our names written all over them, many of funny moments and weird conversions that I uncounted made it a very entertaining Friday night.

A big thank you to **Di** for the excellent managers work, the many emails, you did a marvellous job, I couldn't have wanted it any different.

Thanks also must be made to the parents that supported and encouraged each and every week.

**U17 Coach – Christie**

## Under 17 Girls A

It's been a difficult year for our group. Before round 1 we lost our most experienced player, **Olivia Finlayson** due to illness. At round 6 our Captain **Meg Symons** retired, also for health reasons. This also meant losing her Mum **Mara**, our team manager. We were all devastated, but life goes on. Our core group was reduced to 11 girls. We finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place, struggling each week to field a full team. Finally, in round 18 with every player available, we played to our potential and drew with 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Footscray, knocking them to 4<sup>th</sup>. That game was my season highlight. Thank you to the girls from the U17G District, U15GA & U13GA teams who filled in or doubled up so we had 11 players, or even a bench.

**Shani Timms** took on the Captaincy and did a great job of leading our team, taking responsibility for a unique warm-up to music, getting the team ready to play and bonding them together. Our vice captain, **Emma Cole** showed us week in week out why she was selected in the Victorian U16 Schoolgirls team. She played a huge role in our midfield and defensive unit.

Most of our team have played together in A grade teams for some years. **Miff Smith** made not only her A grade debut but it was also her first year as a keeper. She was on a steep learning curve, but with help from goalie coach **Lauren Stevenson** and lots of practise on game day, **Miff** went from a raw talent to a more polished keeper, finishing the season with a fantastic game in the last round.

**Bec Johnson** started as a speedy strike forward, but after an impressive stint at left half to give someone else a rest, Bec made left half her own. She gave some best on ground performances there with her determination to get the ball. Anna Martin was also a key defender, often playing the sweeper role with her cool head under pressure. She also impressed on the forward line when given the chance. **Megan Linnell** is a true utility player, valuable both in attack and defence, with a fantastic one on one tackle, the skill to drive into the attacking circle and an accurate corner hit. **Taryn Clothier** is also a versatile player with amazing skills weaving her way around opponents like they are cones! **Lani Revell** is another player with silky skills and at centre forward was our top scorer with 5 goals. We have three really tough competitors. **Courtney Baron** is up for any challenge and made good progress in defence and midfield. **Tab Timms** isn't afraid of a contest either, starting as a striker and becoming a dependable midfielder, winning the ball in tough situations she scored 4 goals. **Allara Zylberberg**, a key to our midfield, is the epitome of "When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" **Allara** inspires our team with her bravery, strength on the ball and always gives everything for the team.

In round 12 we welcomed **Katleen Breede** from Germany and **Marril Zoon** from the Netherlands, both accomplished hockey players. They were warmly welcomed by our girls and enthusiastically embraced our pre-game warm-up. Kat wowed us with her skill scoring 3 goals, including a spectacular tomma. **Marril** is a handy left side striker and was unfortunate not to score. We would've loved to have them all season! We would've also liked to have **Emily Elston** more often. In three games **Emily** scored 3 goals!

Most of the girls are progressing in their senior hockey, some getting the opportunity to play in the higher grades. I hope you all play seniors next season and hope I can play *with* more of you. We had seven representatives in the inaugural U17 Sharks team playing in Junior State Championships recently; **Emma Cole**, **Kat Breede**, **Courtney Baron**, **Megan Linnell**, **Miff Smith** (as a field player), **Lani Revell** and **Olivia Finlayson**. With seven of this year's team in their first year of U17's, next season is one to look forward to.

Finally, to **Christie Trost**, **Mara Symons**, **Nick Timms**, **Sinead Vorrath**, **Tim Cole**, **Deb Gardiner**, **Lauren Stevenson**, and **Jacky Jacob** a big thank you from me for all your help and support this season. It has been a real team effort!

**Lee Beet and Sarah Ashworth, Coaches**

## U17 South

The U17 South had a challenging season in 2010 but formed a team which bonded well over the duration. The season started out with two matches against the eventual grand finalists and provided us with a good indication as to how strong the top teams in the grade were. The team did well in both rounds to grind out the games particularly against St Bedes given the torrential rain which turned the ground into a swimming pool.

Round 3 of the completion saw the team score its first points for the year with a draw against Mornington. The team was able to score first and relished being in front on the score board applying pressure all over the field. Mornington however found a way through our defense to equalize. With the scores locked at 1-1 the team kept fighting and was once again able to take the lead back in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Unfortunately Mornington was able to equalize close to full time but I was impressed with the spirit displayed by the team in getting their first result.

Rounds 10, 11 & 12 provided both significant highs and lows for the team. Despite the best efforts and endeavor of all players our defense was unable to match the attacking play of the eventual grand finalists and we recorded two heavy losses in a row. The team however was able to put those results behind them and stay positive for another rematch with Mornington in the following round. The rematch was once again a well fought out encounter with the teams locked at 1 all when the final whistle went.

The team had a number of player changes during the season with players being promoted to help out the Pennant South East Team and 2 players joining us from the U17 girl's teams in round 8. What impressed me the most about the group was the enthusiasm and dedication to the team displayed week in week out.

I hope the players have learnt a lot and benefitted greatly from playing against some strong opposition during the season. I have enjoyed seeing them grow and I would like to congratulate all the players who made a contribution to the South team (apologies if I missed anyone):

Simon Dunkley (16 Games), Jordan Robson (15 Games), Callum Day (15 Games), Christopher Shand-Gost (15 Games), Joseph Connell (14 Games), Benjamin Amiet (14 Games), Alex James (13 Games), Thomas Hillard (13 Games), Ryan Green (13 Games), Benjamin Moltzer (11 Games), Matthew Kingsford (11 Games), Findlay Rayson (8 Games), Frances Rapley-Smith (8 Games), Samuel Anderson (2 Games), Daniel Elmslie (12 Games), Damon Kane (6 Games), Lachlan Plozza (4 Games)

Thanks again to everyone who supported the players and had a role in getting the U17 South team on the field this year. I hope all the players continue to enjoy their hockey in the future.

**Lachlan Marshall, Coach.**

## U17 Pennant South East

The U/17 PSE team experienced a season of significant development and mixed results. Somewhat hindered by injuries and absentees throughout the season (not to mention Hunts poaching our players for the A's), the boys invariably endeavoured to do their best week in week out. This was consistently exemplified by their hard running and perseverance, regardless of the score-line. We began the season conceding 14 goals in the first two games; a less than ideal start. However, to the boys' credit they rebounded back in round 3 to record a much deserved 1-0 win away at Kew. It was evident that this change in form stemmed directly from the establishing partnership between our two fullbacks, **Roald** and **Patrick**. These two (perhaps through the coaching prowess of Michael and myself...) had begun developing a sound fundamental defensive structure, which further progressed throughout the year. Full of confidence, we backed up our debut win a week later with a 10 nil loss to the eventual league champions, Mentone. Unfazed by this result we persisted over the coming weeks to obtain wins over Knox, Waverly and Kew.

Essentially, a large majority of the results we obtained were not a true representation of the style and structure we played. We implemented a basic game-plan that involved a quick transfer of the ball up to the wings, who would in turn aim to attack along the baseline then cut the ball back into the hotspot for a shot. This was conducive of an attacking and exciting brand of hockey; something that Michael and I prioritised ahead of a more methodical and systematic style of play. Subsequently, game results became slightly irrelevant as we focussed more on individual progression and team structure. Overall, the amount by which individuals within the team improved by the latter rounds of the season was amazing. I remember countless occasions on the sideline, where Michael and I looked at each other in astonishment as the boys constructed plays of a standard much superior to that of PSE. Team members such as **Sam Anderson, Damon Kane and Lachie Eddington**, who are all naturally intelligent hockey players really stood up and provided us with creative movements in attack. Our midfield, which included **Burgo, Ciaran (Cyril), Cooper and Jake** were strong and extremely hard working all year, gave great support to the forwards with penetrating passes and overlapping runs. We relied heavily on our 'in and under' forwards, who were predominantly **Lachy Plozza and Elroy**. These two really developed into smart players who had the ability to tailor their leads, allowing them to arrive at the right place at the right time. Consequently, they were able to score a number of important goals.

In fairness, our season was probably epitomised by our round 8 clash against MCC out at the State Hockey Centre. After conceding 2 early goals it looked like being a long night, until **Burgo**, out at right half, decided to take it upon himself and run from the halfway line (despite Mick and I yelling at him to pass) beating 4 defenders then putting away a low tomahawk. The game was locked at 5-5 in the dying minutes, when **Damon** on debut, had an opportunity to write his name into Southern United folklore, but his shot slid agonisingly wide of the far post. Despite our dominance, MCC somehow snared a late winner condemning us to yet another well played and undeserving defeat. Effectively, this was the turning point in our season as the boys really began to play a well structured style of hockey with everyone making a contribution.

Overall, Michael and I were extremely impressed by how far the team had come individually and as a collective group in such a short period of time. It is exciting to see such potential in the junior level of the club, and I look forward to seeing everyone playing in the senior section next year. Thanks for a great year and good luck with your hockey in the future!

**Lachy Finlayson, Coach**

## Under 17 A

I can remember, not that long ago, when my Dad was saying, “Things were better way back then, blah blah blah”. I can remember thinking to myself, “I hope I never am one of those things-were-better-back-then guys”. But then it seems you just start thinking in those terms. Please don’t tell me I am getting old.

An unfortunate reality however is – that the average U17A player these days, has a very busy school schedule, other sporting commitments, possibly seniors hockey, and the beginnings of a social life. Maybe it is a wonder that they can get to training at all.

I think all you can really ask is an appropriate level of commitment that comes with the fact of a “Team Sport”, reasonable focus during training sessions and pre-game, and of course 100% effort at game time. I would think we were pretty good if that is the measurement. This U17 group was a good bunch of guy, keen to learn, and prepared to work hard at game-time for each other and for the team.

Our results were a bit mixed. This would have been a little to do with player availability. We played some good hockey against teams above us, and lost. We played some good hockey against teams below us, and won. I think we only let ourselves down in one game – and on reflection we probably too many players carrying a mild flu. Other than that our results generally went according to the fact of being the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> best team.

Our game tended to be based around a solid defence – as that is where our strength was, and even our better mid-fielders were better defensively than in creation. We had good structure and were generally well disciplined in our marking and tackling. We were quite good in mid-field against the lesser teams, but struggled to maintain enough possession in the mid-field against the better teams. And up front we did struggle to create enough good scoring chances, and our attacking penalty corners never looked particularly threatening.

We definitely improved in a number of key areas throughout the season – in particular with our ability to channel defensively and prevent opponents ‘coming inside’ the field, and also with our ability to create space by either switching play or working in behind opponents.

We had an even split of first and second year players, and with first year players in a number of the key positions (GK, FB, CH, IR) we are well placed to go into next year. A number of the second year players were not yet playing senior hockey in 2010 - so hopefully they can find time and organisation to fit Seniors Hockey into next year. I hope to see them all back involved again next year to one extent or another. When I was 17, you know, I was playing 4 games a weekend and working two jobs and living in a shoe box.

Congratulations to all those who have finished up their Junior Hockey career. One door closes and may more open – stay on your feet.

Thanks to Deb Gardiner for all her organisation of the 3 U17 mixed teams. Awesome effort.

Thanks to Alan Hughes for being an excellent team manager.

**Cameron Hunter, Coach**