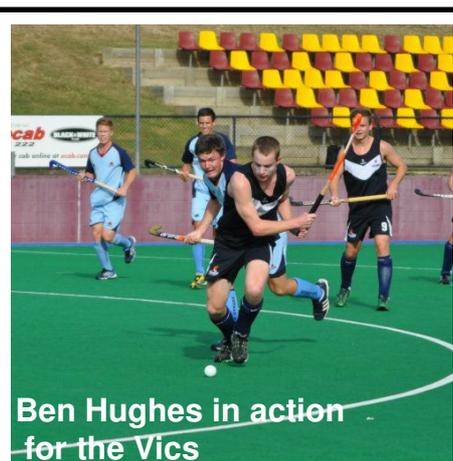




June Newsletter 2012



The U11As in attack!



Ben Hughes in action for the Vics

Congratulations to:

Victorian State Team Reps:

U18 Men: **Ben Hughes & Ed Arnold** (train)

U21 Women: **Olivia Finlayson** (train-on)

Victorian School's Team Reps:

U12 Girls: **Olivia Downes and Amy Lawton**

U12 Boys: **Brad Marais**

U16 Boys: **Josh Ephraums, Loki Whyte**

Southern Sharks Reps:

U13 Girls: **Alice Arnold, Amy Lawton, Charley Malligan, Emma Riley, Georgia Elston, Nicole Amiet, Olivia Downes**

U13 Boy: **Abhinav Sharma, Alistair Hart, Bradley Marais, Calvin Martinz, Carlin Walker, Max Dalton, Nathan Ephraums, Rhy Dyball and William Campbell**

U15 Girls: **Alicja Gibert, Ashleigh Jones, Hannah Cole, Laura Cox, Hannah Moss**

U15 Boys: **Callum Thompson, Mackenzie Thompson and Thomas Youds**

Upcoming Events:

At Farm Road:

1. **R9**, 16th June; Club Match Day; WPC/WSL2/MSL2/MPE/MM3S
2. **R10**, 23rd June – Club Match Day; WSL2/MSL2/MPE/MM2S
3. **R13**, 21st July – Junior's Day; Junior exhibition games between senior games – details to come.
4. **R15**, 4th August - \$1,000 Day; MPB/MSL2/WSL2/WPB
5. **R18**, 25th August – “Bogan Bingo” ; from 6pm – Farm Rd Pavilion – details to follow.



SOUTHERN UNITED HOCKEY CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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Website: www.suhc.com.au



From the President:

It is nearly half way through the season and time to reflect on what we have done so far.

Our juniors have had a successful start to the season especially the under 9, 11 and 13 groups who are mostly leading the way in their respective grades while the older U15 and 17 age groups are more than holding their own against good opposition. The improvement of our younger players can be measured in some sense by the increasing number of junior boys and girls who also play senior hockey and make regional representative and state teams. This is a very positive sign for the club and I encourage all juniors to not be afraid to take the step into senior hockey when the time is right.

Overall our results have been fairly satisfying with a number of our senior teams either in the four or just outside it. In what is a big year for our flagship MSL and WSL teams, both are fourth on the ladder and really need to climb into the top two by season's end if we are to enhance our chances of promotion to the 12 team Premier Leagues in 2013. The state league players and coaches are continuing to work hard towards achieving this goal and they have been well supported by the rest of the club especially the MPA and MPD/E groups. It also pleasing to see the gradual improvement of our WPB team and great to watch the young WMS2 side take it up to and more than compete with older and more experienced outfits.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, our masters appear to have overcome a slow-ish start to the season and are now getting some good results from better performances.

Off the field a lot is also happening.

SUHC continues to raise funds in support of Peter Mac at all of our Big Match Days at Farm Road. Last year we raised nearly \$10,000 for Peter Mac which was matched by a similar donation to SUHC by club sponsor McKenzie's Foods. This year we are currently sitting on a fairly paltry \$700 so get your wallets out and make a donation to two good causes. Tax deductible donations to Peter Mac can be made online at http://www.everydayhero.com.au/southern_united_hockey_club_1.

Come down our Big Match Days at Farm Road and support your club and ultimately yourself because money raised by this and other fund raising activities is used to improve SUHC.

Keep an eye out for a new scoreboard at Farm Road over the next week or so as we replace the old one which is no longer supported technically with a new digital display. Have a trundle on the exercise bikes before or after training to shake out some of those aches and pains.

Check out the new look SUHC cafe which, in the capable hands of Helen Abaniel and Tina Halls is offering up a new revamped menu that is bound to satisfy all tastes.

Log into www.SUHC.com.au for all the news about what's going on in your club. Feel free to write a match report or a blog about how good your team is, or how great you are. Keep your other eye on SUHC.com.au for soon to come player video on You Tube and keep involved in your club.

Finally, the season is less than half done and a lot can and will happen both on and off the field at SUHC over the next 10 weeks or so. Finals will be upon us before we even notice and I have no doubt that SUHC teams across all sections of the club will be in and around the September action.

So, keep training and playing both hard and well and most of all enjoy your hockey at SUHC.

David Finlayson
President - SUHC

PROUDLY SUPPORTING



Juniors Section

We are now at Round 9, nearly half way through the season and SUHC juniors are making a big splash all across the Melbourne metropolitan areas. We have 19 junior teams, plus a really healthy group of Minkeys.

Pleasingly, with 4 mixed and 2 girls under 17 sides, we have a great representation of more experienced juniors and it is excellent to see so many 15 and 16 year olds, and so many girls, involved. At the under 17 level our Shield and PSE boys are battling hard in tough competitions and playing some good hockey. The two Under 17 mixed sides are in or close to the four and very competitive. Our under 17 girls A have had a strong start, sitting 3rd. Our under 17 girls B side, which has a number of under 15 girls within the team is battling well and improving week by week.

At under 15 level, we also have three mixed and one girls side, so a strong representation. Under 15 mixed PSE is improving week by week and now in the four, with the under 15 mixed East side first and under 15 mixed south side second. So all working well. Under 15 girls A are in a tough competition and working hard.

Our three under 13s sides are all first or second, with mixed shield, mixed south and girls A all dominating their competitions. The theme continues in under 11s, with the A side second, PSE on the edge of the four and South in the four. Under 9s are again strong, with our Red side sitting first, Black in third and White just outside the four. The ladder positions are good, but it is the clear improvement in our hockey and player confidence which we should be most proud of.

We are also proud of our new **Victorian Schools representatives** and our many players that have so far made the **Southern Sharks** (see the front page!) and the final under 17 boys and girls Sharks squads are to be announced shortly.

**Roger Arnold,
Juniors Section Leader**



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Men's Section

Hi Everyone

Starting from the top, I'll give a quick update on the State League boys. Sitting 4th on the ladder is not what we expected approaching the half-way point. This is largely the result of a poor performance in the second half of the Kew game, where the boys conceded a lead and the momentum to let Kew pinch what should have been all 3-points in the bag. The game did highlight the inconsistency that the team has experienced this year. Something that is frustrating the players and coach and even more so after a dominant performance against the very strong Albury the week before. Not all doom and gloom yet, but the team needs to find the secret to consistent performance and push on for a top-two ladder position come the end of the season.

The PA squad continues to develop, with great performances from a very young squad. Amazing to see young guys like Tom Burgess, Sam Coffey, Alex Ong, Lachie Eddington and Hayden Jones really stepping up under the guidance of Shannon Davey and an experienced on-field group. Great job boys. Sitting 3rd on the ladder is great reward for all the effort that the group has put in.

PD / PE have had solid starts to the season, sitting 3rd and 1st, respectively. Good signs for our long term plans to push a team into the PB or PC competitions. Again, we see some good young guys in these teams, ably led by some experienced heads and coached by Chris Abaniel and Brian Paxton. And to the Metro teams. Mixed results thus far, but I can't help but think that the results would improve if the guys discovered that little known performance aid: TRAINING! We run training every Wednesday night at Farm Rd (7.30-9.30 PM). I know some of the guys have work commitments, but for those who have a choice, please make the effort, as we'll all benefit from working together at the finer points of the game.

Mike Campbell
Men's Section Leader



The Road Professor Driving School - SUHC Specials!

Individual lessons: 45 Min (\$42), 60 Min (\$55), 90 Min (\$80)

Package of 6 : 45 Min (\$200 at \$33.33@)

(5 +1Free): 60 Min (\$260 at \$43.33@)

Book now: Call Michael Thiedeman on **0402 563 960**

Women's Section

The women's section has had a very mixed start to the season. We've had some great wins and we've had some very disappointing losses. Being nearly halfway through the season and although everyone is well and truly in the rhythm and routine of hockey there's still plenty of work to be done.

Women's State League 2

WSL2 had a very strong start to the season. Three wins first up had them fighting hard for that top spot. A draw against Yarra and a loss to Powerhouse momentarily stopped them in their tracks; they fought back over the next two weeks to put two more victories on the board. Kew, the team that ended the girls' 2011 finals campaign then got the better of Southern once more. With 10 matches to go SUHC are sitting 4th and are yet to play Hawthorn who are comfortably holding top of the ladder. Seven of our girls have contributed to the goal scoring so far, Tamsin Nelson has slotted in 14 to be not only our leading goal scorer but equal leading goal scorer for the WSL2. This team is full of talent and potential and we hope that the second half of the season brings better results for their hard work.

Pennant B

This team is on the up, with a mixture of the older and the young they are improving with each week. 3 losses, 3 draws and 2 wins have them sitting 7th, only 2 points off 4th. It's a new team with a new coach and plenty of desire and will to perform. Their losses were close and their draws, painful. Their inability to put the ball in the back of the net, although earning many chances, is their down fall.

With Mentone still to come the girls are determined to have a better second half of the season and to turn those draws into wins. The few goals that Southern have scored have been shared by 5 players – a good team effort. A note must be made that nearly as few goals have been scored against, which highlights the consistent strong performances by Sue Styles and Lee Beet on the backline and Alison Wright in goals.

Pennant C

It's been a tough season so far for Pennant C. With only one win on the board the girls are placed 10th on the ladder. Looking at their results thought there are many positives to take from them. The start of the season saw some big losses, as the weeks have gone by there has been clear improvement within the team which is reflected in their score lines. 31 players have represented this side at this point in time.

The continuous change of players has not helped this developmental teams' progress but fingers crossed it will pay off in the near future. Greg Edwards is doing an amazing job as coach constantly motivating these girls to keep at it, it's not an easy position for anyone to be in but hopefully the second half of the season will see greater rewards for their efforts.

Metro 2 South East

Round 8 saw WM2SE get caught up in the women's section bad luck round having their first loss so far for the season. They went down to top side ECHO, dropping them from 2nd to 3rd spot on the ladder. This team has an average age of somewhere between 20-25 yrs with half the team being from our junior U15G and U13G sides. If you have a chance, get down to see one of their games, here you'll witness some of the future female starts of SUHC. The second half of the season looks very bright for this team. Their game play and team work is of a great standard and having a full time consistent coach in Lex Johnson has enabled the girls to develop and improve as a group.

Metro 3 South East

Our WM3SE team this year is a real mixed bunch; a team of mums, experience, a young one or two and some relatively new players to the sport. They're having a very up and down season, sitting 8th at the moment after another unfortunate loss they did manage however to come away with a draw from 4th placed Monash. Only having one win and a couple of draws on the board they're struggling to find their feet. A very entertaining team to watch play, the girls go out to do their best and to enjoy themselves which is great to see.

It's been great to see such a consistent turn out at trainings this year. As we hit the middle of winter and the coldest of Tuesday and Thursday nights let's make sure this doesn't change. Rug up and brave the elements. After all, we've chosen to play a winter sport so it's only to be expected! The more players from your team that train, the more valuable that session will be.

Good luck to all teams for the second half of the season. Remember, when you're not playing, get down to the club, check out the talent and support the rest of the teams.

Alisia Simmons Women's Section Leader



Masters Section

The halfway point of the season looms and there are mixed fortunes for the four SUHC Masters teams: **Masters A:** Currently 4th on the ladder after a slow start. The injection of a few new youth players (under 40!) have provided some zip and the team is now combining well. They have not lost a game since R2. Good prospects for Finals if the form continues (and not too many late season injuries).

Masters C-East: Currently 7th on the ladder in an extraordinary tight competition with 1st and 10th separated by only 6 points. The team has had some good recent wins and form and have not lost since R3. Captain Jules leads by example and provides plenty of encouragement. An injury to goalie John Leighton has meant some fill-ins from below but John will be back in goals soon.

Masters D-East: The Ds are struggling (similar to the AFL....), but are competitive in nearly every game. They lie 9th on the ladder but the second half of the season should see some good team hockey. The team is improving each week. Captain Helen leads from the front.

Masters E-South: The E-graders lead by Brooksey are continuing their form from last year and lie 5th on the ladder. There are many new players to the team and club, and they are combining well into a very competitive team. A strong second half of the season beckons.

Congratulations to the following Southern Masters players who had been selected in Victorian Masters teams to play in the Master National Championships later in the year:

Womens: (Melbourne) Jacky Jacobs (O45) & Alison Whyte (O40)

Mens: (Hobart) Richard Thompson (O40Div1), Dave McPherson, Mal Smith (O50Div1), John McIvor (O55Div1), Ross Smale (O60) & Ken Walker (O70).

Tim Cole,

Masters Section Leader



Young and old Strikers at play.....

