



## **Southern United Hockey Club President's 2018 Report**

This year has been a huge success for Southern United. Our success this year is truly the result of the effort, planning, and direction that begun back in 2006 when Southern United was founded. And it is the result of the countless hours people have put in since then to create the club that is here today.

A few of the 2018 highlights from a whole of club perspective include:

1. The historic Men's Premier League Premiership.
2. Southern United was one of eight clubs Hockey Victoria appointed as a Change Our Game Ambassador Club. The purpose of this appointment is to identify and implement key strategies that drive cultural change within our Club to achieve greater gender equity. Our club will work closely with Hockey Victoria to pursue a number of key measures across Administration, Coaching, Umpiring and broader participation.
3. Raising close to \$10 000 for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation. Over the years, led by Life Member Julian Pratt, SUHC has raised \$74 000 for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation. In 2018, the Club was recognised for its fundraising efforts by its inclusion in the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre's Honour Board.
4. Turning the Club's attention to its Facility Strategy. Though development is slow, discussion about upgrading the Club's facilities has begun with Kingston City Council.

Going forward, I expect the Club to have continued success. However, to actualise that expectation, we need to continue to make decisions and deliver on our strategic objective: *SUHC will provide its members with the best possible opportunity to play and enjoy hockey on and off the field at all levels and be the club of first choice in the south eastern and bayside suburbs of Melbourne.*

This involves continuing to direct our Club's effort towards ensuring our Club provides the appropriate pathways for all our members to participate in hockey and within the Club, for example, by ensuring our Club meets its League Entry Criteria (LEC) for Hockey Victoria's Premier League competition and offering development opportunities for our coaches and umpires.

Our Club and its community are built on our volunteers. I am truly lucky to be able to see the work that goes on behind the scenes at our Club. Thank you to the tireless work of our Club's volunteers. In particular, thank you to the Social Club for organising inclusive and entertaining fundraising events for the Club. Thank you to each for the section committees for their work in getting teams on the pitch and much more. And finally, thank you to the Committee of Management, for its guidance and sound handling of the Club's strategic direction.

I anticipate 2019 will prove to be another successful year for the club on and off the field. I know we will work hard to continue to offer an inclusive community for all of our members.

**Caitlin Campbell –  
President  
Southern United Hockey Club**



## **Southern United Hockey Club Men's Section 2018 Report**

The 2018 season is one that will last in our memories for many years. To be honest, I doubt the emotions of that Men's Premier League Grand Final will ever leave those that were there.

Enormous congratulations to Jesse, his support team and the entire playing group for an amazing achievement. Their self-belief and never give up attitude on the day was testament to the character of all involved.

As huge as the 2018 Men's PL Premiership was, I want to spend some time reflecting on the years that led to this great outcome. Way back in 2012, the Club developed a 5-year plan that included amongst other goals, to win a Premier League flag by 2017. If we are being critical, the flag was late by a year. I think we'll all be prepared to grant a little wiggle room on that one.

If we go back to those early days, the goals in place were lofty, but they weren't without substantial support in attracting and developing a playing group capable of delivering on those goals. To put some perspective on this program, in 2012, a significant number of the PL squad were still playing Under 12 hockey. Recognition of the fact that it was that young group that would drive our future success was the key to our plans. Regardless of the name of the program (John Mowat Clinics, SUHA, McKenzie's Clinics ...), enormous effort and resources were put into imparting hockey skills and knowledge into our future stars.

I'm not even going to try to list all of the administrators, coaches, players and supporters who have been part of this journey. I just hope they are as proud of the Club's achievement as I am and looking forward to many more successful years.

Moving on to the rest of our teams, it was a very strong season, with 5 of our 8 teams playing finals and 3 of them making it to the Grand Final.

The Reserves had a good year, pushing higher than in past seasons and providing a number of young players the experienced required to play under the pressure of Premier League in the future. Ross Walker and his senior playing group did a great job with the group striving for excellence.

Pennant A had an up and down year. A slow start was overcome and by the end of the year, only just missing out on finals. You could be mistaken for thinking I just pasted in last year's comments of this team. We do need to do something different in the PA and I can reveal that we have secured a very capable coach and the services of some excellent ex-PL players to help these guys take the next step and push for the ultimate success in this very competitive hockey grade in 2019.

Pennant C was the old boys team in 2018, with a number of old faces surrounded by young legs. This turned out to be a pretty good formula, with the group pushing deep into finals, but ultimately falling short of a premiership. A number of the young legs had an excellent year and I suspect we'll see them playing much higher in coming seasons. Good job by Jono Boyd and Helen Ward in managing a team full of strong characters. Always a challenge, but they managed to harness the energy and get the most from the group.



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Pennant D and E gained promotion last year and while they missed out on finals, had seasons with plenty of highlights and played some good hockey along the way. PD in particular had many young players who gave their all each week and improved significantly over the season. Many thanks to Chris Abaniel, for all his efforts in guiding the PD group. PE got off to a great start to the season, but fell away in the back of the year, missing finals, but being more than competitive after stepping up a grade.

The Metro teams didn't miss out on the fun, with Met A, led by Jason Bloms and Met B, led by Andrew Cox and Greg Edwards both playing in Grand Finals, but unfortunately falling at the last hurdle.

As usual, I have to thank the committee for all their work. Special thanks to Helen Ward, Barb Hamilton (Secretary) and Rob Pearce (Treasurer) who are the real power behind the committee and made my life so much easier.

**Mike Campbell**  
**Men's Section Leader**  
**Southern United Hockey Club**



## **Southern United Hockey Club Women's Section 2018 Report**

What a year! It was our third season in Premier League, second season of fielding two Pennant teams, and our first season of all six women's teams making the finals. Our section is emerging and it's a great demonstration of the impact a strong Junior development program has on the Senior section of a club.

Our Premier League women had an incredible year, ending their home and away season with 15 wins, one loss, four draws and an outstanding second place. Their finals campaign didn't go as hoped for, facing the eventual GF winner in the PF. The Reserves had a very similar home and away season with 12 wins, three loses, 5 draws and a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Their finals campaign ended in the SF. Both teams demonstrated growth and development through their on and off-field attitudes and endeavours. This group is continuing to display some incredible qualities that are taking them from strength to strength.

Pennant B had a great season, making the finals for the second year running, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> on the ladder. With 11 wins, 4 loses and 3 draws they stepped their season up a notch and continued to grow as group. Their off-field cohesion most definitely positively impacted their on-field performance and their love of the game. This group know their team mates, how they play and how to get the best out of each other.

Pennant E had an incredible year with 15 wins and 3 loses. They finished second on the ladder and unfortunately went out in straight sets losing the SF and then the PF. These girls were promoted to Pennant E after their impressive 2017 season and have earned themselves a second promotion in as many seasons and will play in Pennant D in 2019. This team demonstrated what a bit of hard work and persistence can do. Their skills, game-play and understanding of the game kept improving and the standard of hockey they played continued to lift.

Metro A had a strong season with 9 wins, 3 loses and 4 draws, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ladder. This team has a lot of finals experience and started their season being the ones to beat. This year, unfortunately, their season ended at the PF. The mixture of ages of the players in this team has continued to enable some girls to get their first seniors experience in an incredibly nurturing and welcoming team. Their skills have continued to improve and their game play developing.

Metro B were our shining stars in 2018. With 15 wins, 2 loses and 1 draw this team finished the home and away season on top of the ladder and carried their strong form straight into the finals taking out the SF and then the big one, the GF. This team was a combination of experience, youth and developing talent. They played to their strengths and grew as a team as the season went on. Their increasing skill set and cohesive team work is a credit to themselves and something that they will hopefully carry through to season 2019.

A big thank you must go out to all the coaches involved in the Women's Section. Matt, once again your wealth of knowledge and experience has continued to develop the girls understanding of the game, skills they have to offer and the way in which they play. Your love for hockey and desire to see the girls develop into the best they can be is worth its weight in gold. Nath, your presence and



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support for Matt enabled him to do what he does best and meant the girls had the game attention and support that they needed. Hayden, you were a great addition to our coaching panel for 2018 and your game day stats speak for themselves. You have a clear passion for hockey and that is shown through your want to continue to learn and grow as a coach. Warren and Lex, thank you for another year of your time and dedication. Your priorities continue to be your players and the girls only continue to develop because of this. Deb, what a way to begin your coaching at SUHC. Your players keenness to learn and improve their hockey was a direct result of your enthusiasm and devotion.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the off-field running of the Women's Section; the team managers, social committee members and the rest of my amazing Women's Section committee, you all continue to do an incredible job. Thank you to Julianne Downes for taking on the role of Selection Coordinator; it's not an easy role and your time and efforts were greatly appreciated. A special mention goes as usual to Sue Styles, Lex Johnson, Graham Styles and Phoebe Willcock; these remarkable people continue to be the backbone, the emails, the thoughts and the heart of our section. We would genuinely be lost without you.

**Alisia Simmons**  
**Women's Section Leader**  
**Southern United Hockey Club**



## **Southern United Hockey Club Junior Section 2018 Report**

Southern United Hockey club continued to provide an outstanding junior hockey program and experience through 2018. The program has been in place for a number of years and continues to provide success both on the field and through participation numbers.

On field success in the winter competition included the following;

- Premierships: U16 Mixed Shield, U16 Mixed Pennant, U14 Mixed Shield A
- Runners Up: U12 Girls Shield
- Minor Premierships: U16 Mixed Shield, U16 Mixed Pennant, U18 Mixed South East
- Finalists: U14 Mixed Pennant, U16 Girls Shield and U18 Mixed South East

This on field success also followed into the Indoor Competitions with

- Our U18 Girls winning the club championships
- Our U18 Boys and U15 Girls runners up in the club championships.

Southern United Hockey Club continues to produce junior players of high quality through various development programs, i.e. McKenzie's Skills Clinics, Southern United Hockey Academy, and goalie clinics. This is reflected in the number of SUHC players earning selection in regional and state outdoor and indoor teams. We had 56 players involved in various representative teams, 30 players in Victorian state teams, 6 players in national squads and teams. A great result for the club and we congratulate all of our representative players.

But more importantly, we have created an opportunity for young people to be part of healthy physical activity, engage in a team sport and develop skills and sportsmanship. We had 280 junior members in 2018 and also exposed around 1100 more to the sport of Hockey through School Visits and come and try sessions resulting in 65 children participating in Hin2 Hockey program.

A huge list of volunteers make this happen;

An excellent committee comprised of parents who devote a lot of time and energy to run and coordinate our program of activities, identify coaches and managers. The committee do all of this in and around their work and family responsibilities and are also the first to volunteer when something needs doing. Throughout the 2018 year, we had a changeover of longer term committee members and new members. Thanks to all but a special thanks to retiring committee members Roger Arnold, Anna Jennings, Tracey Tingay-Smith, Julian Pratt, Allison Thomas, Warren Davey and Robyn Fitzgerald on their contributions over multiple seasons.

A great team of coaches. Our coaches, who also have study, jobs and life outside of hockey give up a couple of nights a week, for nearly half a year, to coach our players. It is a big task and a big responsibility to take charge of groups of 15-20 youngsters, and I would like to express the club's enormous gratitude to these volunteers – without coaches, there is no junior hockey.



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Our umpires and umpiring coordinators, who again make themselves available on Friday nights or Saturday mornings when they could be doing other things and where we all need to remember that without an umpire, there is no game!

So many parents who step in to manage, help, volunteer and also take their children to the games; and finally

The players – we love having you at the club and hope that you enjoy the game and take it with you for the rest of your lives.

I will finish by thanking all of those who volunteer in the junior arena, by thanking the members of the senior sections who also create opportunities for players to progress into senior hockey and those maintaining the club as a whole.

**Shaun Desmond**  
**Junior Section Leader**  
**Southern United Hockey Club**



## **SUHC Masters Section Report 2018**

The Southern United Masters section entered three teams in the HV Monday night Masters competition in the 45 and over age group (A, B & D Grade), and also one team in the Wednesday night women's 35 and over A grade competition having been promoted for the first time after winning the Premiership in 2017. All 4 teams made the finals series and 2 of those made the grand final, with both teams just being pipped at the post and taking home silver. The 45D team ended up Minor Premiers so will gain promotion to C grade in 2019. Thanks to those players who managed the 4 sides, their team reports are included below. A big thanks to our regular umpires Jacky Jacob, Hayden Jones and Tony Dayton and for Trevor Jones helping out whilst Hayden was on crutches. Also a big thanks to Tim Cole for helping out with the Masters organising during the season. We hope everyone will be back for another enjoyable season in 2019.

### **45D Men's (mixed) (Tim Cole): MINOR PREMIERS and promoted to C- Grade!**

The 2018 45D Masters 'All-Stars' had a fantastic season finishing top of the ladder storming into the Finals. We had a very consistent game plan during the season with a good core of Masters' players that fronted up every week – a great mixture of Masters 'youth' and experience. We had Marcus Barber as a fast dynamic forward who scored us plenty of goals, Chris Lewis as a strong running mid-fielder and Suzie Styles strong at the back and solid performances from the entire team most weeks. There were some good round wins and we won the first final against MHSOB to go through to the Grand Final. We met MHSOB again in the Grand Final. It was a frenetic pressure game, particularly in the last 20 mins when we laid siege to their Goal but their (fill-in!) keeper kept us out. It was 1-1 at full time so it went to penalty shoot-outs. Again their goalie carried the day and we went down 3-1 in the shoot-out – but it was a great season. The great 'spirit and temperament' of the play that made the team a very enjoyable one to be part of during the season.

We go to C-grade which will be a challenge but also a good reward for a fine season. Thanks to a number of players (Graham Styles, Greg Edwards, Chris Abaniel) from other teams that filled-in or doubled-up when we were short. Our Best & Fairest winner was Suzie Styles who was a strong performer at full back - centre half for all the season. Also thanks to Suzie for running the team when I was away (on important University business!).

**45A Team** (Allen Hart): 2018 saw the 45A side take the field with some younger legs including Sam Waters, alongside the regulars. The side had a pretty consistent season working around injuries etc finishing the home & away rounds in 4th spot. Having beaten Camberwell a few weeks prior, the side was optimistic it could handle them again in the elimination final however that wasn't to be & we finished a creditable 4th. Evergreen Richard Thompson was again crowned best & fairest after another stellar season. Many thanks to Stewart Fenton for again coaching the side in 2018.

**45B Team** (Jeff Busch): The 2018 Masters 45B season was a tale of 2 halves! The beginning of the year saw an enormous amount of players available +18 in the Very talented squad! The newly formed team of some previous 45A players, new talent and the hard core seemingly 45B for life members, had a hard first half of the season, especially once the winter illness and injury set in.



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The second half of the season produced much improved results with some great smart hockey being played! The 45Bs made the semi-finals and in the elimination final we out played our nemesis Southern Knights!

Our next final was against a very fit and well trained Camberwell. We entered the game with two strikers injured. The game was a credit to SUHC played with grit and determination. The game finished 0-0 with Camberwell scoring a short corner after the final whistle.

Many thanks to the squad and Peter Binks for his assistance!

### **35A Ladies Team** (Phoebe Willcock):

After 4 years in the B Grade over 35's with 3 Premierships we were promoted to A Grade over 35's.

Our goal was to not finish last! We exceeded all expectations and managed to finish in the top 4.

We won a hotly contested semi-final in a shootout, with huge thanks to our goalie Sally Evans.

The Grand final was a very hard fought game that came down to the wire and we lost in the last few minutes to Mentone, a team that won the A grade Grand Final in 2017.

Thanks to Suzie Styles for managing the team and keeping us on the park. Huge congrats and thanks to all the women who played throughout the season to get us into the finals, and to our supporters who came to cheer us on Grand final night!

### **Suzie Styles**

**Masters Section Leader**

**Southern United Hockey Club**