



Southern United Hockey Club President's 2019 Report

Southern United Hockey Club has a lot of reasons to celebrate 2019.

There were a number of on-field achievements for SUHC in 2019. Most notably the back-to-back Men's Premier League Premiership and the Women's Pennant B Premiership. Enormous achievements for the club and the result of years of peoples' effort, planning and leadership.

Our club continued to deliver off field in 2019. The club has again supported and raised significant funds for Peter Mac and I am proud of the support SUHC members continue to give to Women and Girls and Pride Cup Rounds. In 2019, SUHC's Social Committee delivered a number of events that not only substantially fundraised for the club but also supported and encouraged the club's active community.

The success of SUHC is built upon the huge efforts of many individuals. I would like to use this opportunity to thank a few of them.

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge that in 2019, after more than 30 years as the Club Ground Manager, Ron Noe made the decision to retire. Ron has made a significant contribution to the club and we are very privileged for his work. I know Ron will continue to be an active member of our club.

I'd like to recognise Mike Campbell and Alisia Simmons, respective leaders of SUHC's men's and women's sections. Both Mike and Alisia have decided to step down from their roles after many years.

Mike Campbell was elected as Men's Section Leader in 2009 and Alisia Simmons was elected Women's Section Leader in 2012. They have worked tirelessly for SUHC for many years and have provided leadership, direction and support.

Mike and Alisia have been at the forefront of securing SUHC's on field and off field success. It is important to remember that the club's accomplishments aren't achieved overnight. They have worked hard for many years, planning and actioning the strategies that have led to the development and success of SUHC. We are extremely grateful for all of your efforts over the years.

Personally, I'd also like to thank Mike and Alisia for their support on the Committee of Management. I have been in this role for two years and through its challenges, their support has been unwavering.

A special thank you to our two major sponsors: McKenzie's and Buxton Real Estate in Brighton. We are very grateful for your significant financial contribution and support of SUHC. It provides our club with more opportunities and allows SUHC to operate in a financially secure environment. We are very fortunate to be in this position.

Finally thank you to all of SUHC's many volunteers: the coaches, the managers, the coordinators, the committee members, and the players. There is a lot of a tireless work that goes on behind the scenes and I am fortunate to witness it. Going forward, I hope more SUHC members continue to volunteer and ensure our club continues to enjoy the success it does, on and off the field.

SUHC is committed to continue to provide its members a place to enjoy playing hockey with friends and family and aims to offer a vibrant community of support and connection.

As we look ahead, season 2020 will undoubtedly be a lot different to any season before it. Whatever its format, SUHC looks forward to delivering hockey for its members when it is safe to do so. During this pandemic, we



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hope the SUHC community remains safe, healthy and connected. We look forward to when we can get together again and get back to doing what we enjoy – playing hockey!

Caitlin Campbell
President
Southern United Hockey Club



Southern United Hockey Club Men's Section 2019 Report

As I sit at home reflecting on the 2019 season during the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world has been turned upside down and the importance of hockey seems of little relevance in the grand scheme of things. The more I think of hockey, however, the more I reflect less on results and more on the people and the journeys that we have witnessed over the years as small children have grown into mature adults. This was never more evident than when the Premier League squad cancelled their pre-season training session just as the health emergency was beginning to unfold. The decision was taken by the playing group, despite Hockey Victoria declaring business as usual, to protect other more vulnerable members of the community. We should all be proud of the leadership they displayed and the young men they have become.

In light of the maturity shown recently, it should come as no surprise that on-field performances continue to develop, as the same attitude is being applied to all aspects of the playing groups lives. 5-0 over Footscray in the PL final seemed like a formality, but the loss of Matt L'Huillier to injury in training posed another hurdle for the boys, but they rose to the occasion and demonstrated why they were the best team in the competition all year. Congratulations to Jesse, his support team and the entire playing group for a well-earned result.

In other results, the PLR teams made finals, taking another step forward for the Club and providing many of the young developing talent in the PLR squad much needed exposure to high level hockey. Heart-breaking way to lose in the first final, but great experience for the future, which looks rosy. Well done to Shannon and his senior players for guiding the young talent through a rewarding, but challenging season.

Results in the teams below were patchy. PC made finals, but the rest of us missed out. Some good hockey played throughout the year, but not consistent enough to make finals. There's always next year!!

This will be my last section report for the AGM, as I step down from the role. After over a decade in the job, I've witnessed enormous change in the section and while I've enjoyed my role, it's time to hand over the reins to the younger generation. Steve Duffield (aka Buddha) will be taking over from me and I'm sure he'll not only do a good job, but will involve many of the extremely capable leaders within the senior playing group in the running of the section. Best of luck Buddha.

A couple of brief reflections before I close. Obviously back to back Premier League flags are special and those memories will remain forever, but it's been the journey that will stay with me. Memories of plotting and planning to rise to the top of Victorian Hockey and then see those plans come to fruition have been very satisfying. Hopefully, I've played my part in the background in helping achieve our overall goals. I feel privileged to have been part of it.

As usual, I have to thank the committee for all their work. Special thanks to Helen Ward, Barb Hamilton, and Rob Pearce and of course, Buddha, who has really stepped up this year.

Special thanks also to my family, particularly my wife for putting up with the time commitment the role has taken over the years.

Mike Campbell
Men's Section Leader



Southern United Hockey Club Women's 2019 Report

Another successful season for the women of Southern United. 2017 saw us fielding 2 Pennant teams for the first time and in 2019 we jumped to three. A sign of the growing depth and development within the club.

Our Premier League women had another strong year, ending their home and away season with 12 wins, five loses, two draws and in fourth place. Their finals campaign didn't go as hoped for with going down to the eventual GF winner in the first week, giving them a long road ahead. Week two of the finals saw some unusual results but a victorious SUHC. Week three was unfortunately their last game for the year with a loss to Footscray. The Reserves had a good home and away season, similar to that of 2018, with 11 wins, four loses, four draws and a 6th place finish. Their finals campaign ended in week two with a close loss to Essendon. Both teams demonstrated growth and development and fought hard all season for themselves and their team mates. The group is continuing to go from strength to strength and they should all be proud of what they have achieved.

Pennant B had an incredible season with 14 wins, one loss and three draws, finishing 2nd on the ladder. They stepped their season up yet again and continued to grow on and off the field as a cohesive group. Their finals campaign could not have gone more to plan with the team taking out 1st on the ladder with a strong 3-0 win in the first week, giving them a week off. In that week off the top of the ladder went down again and come GF day SUHC brought their A-game and ran away with a 4-1 win, the Premiership and promotion to Pennant A for 2020! The girls should be super proud of themselves and what they were able to achieve for the club.

Pennant D had a brilliant year with 12 wins, three loses and three draws and a 2nd place ladder finish. Their strong finals campaign saw them beat top of the ladder in week one but unfortunately go down to them in the GF. This is a team of fighters who have gone from Pennant F in 2017, Pennant E in 2018 to now Pennant C in 2020. This team has continued to work hard to achieve their goals. Their skills, game-play and understanding of the game has gone from strength to strength the standard of hockey they play continues to grow.

Pennant F were our guinea pig for 2019. After having two Metro teams for a number of years and both teams making consistent finals appearances we pushed our fifths team into Pennant to see if they could rise to the challenge. Rise they did with ending their season with 14 wins, two loses and two draws and finishing 3rd on the ladder. Unfortunately, their season ended quickly in the finals, going down in week one. The ladies should all be so proud of their achievement. For some players this season was the first time they had played at the Pennant level and they all developed as the season went on. This team have enabled SUHC to now offer a wider range of Pennant teams to all players and continues to push the teams above them to reach greater goals.

Metro A had a challenging season being placed in a higher Metro grade and now being our club's lowest grade. They finished their season with 5 wins, 10 loses and three draws, placing them 8th on the ladder. The team fought their season out amongst an interesting fixture and many long drives. They continued to work hard at their skills and grow as a team and should be proud of their efforts.

Like usual, a huge thank you must go out to all the coaches involved in the Women's Section. Matt, your knowledge, experience and skills have continued to develop the girls understanding of the game and the way in which they play. You have the purest love for hockey and a genuine desire to see the girls grow into the best they can be. We can't put a price on what you continue to offer our club, if we did, we couldn't afford you. Nath, you once again supported Matt and the girls, and enabled him to do what he does best. Hayden, your passion and love for hockey was evident again in the way you went about dedicating so much time and effort to your team and to building your coaching skills and knowledge. Deb, two years of coaching for SUHC and



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two Premierships under your belt, it's pretty impressive. Your passion and desire for both hockey and a cohesive team effort came through and enabled another team to share your love of the game. Warren and Lex, thank you again and again for another year of your time and dedication. Your priorities continue to be your players and the girls develop because of this. Meaghan, thank you for taking on the role of coach for the 2019 season. The time and effort you put into your team was greatly appreciated.

I would also 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 the Women's Section committee.

To finish with, I have decided that after taking on the role from 2012 that 2019 will be my final year of being the Women's Section Leader. It's been a tough 8 years that has seen the section grow from fielding SL2, PB, PC, Met 2 and Met 3 in 2012 to what will be PL, Res, PA, PC, PF and Met A in 2020. I've seen led the section with four different head coaches (and so many other coaches below them that the list would be too long), through HV's many season formats and re-structures and through the highs and lows of what both hockey and life throws at you. My love of hockey and of course SUHC will always remain but it's time for someone else, with fresh eyes and ideas to take on the challenge of leading the women of SUHC through what lies ahead.

I want to thank everyone that I have worked along-side within both the Women's Committee and the Committee of Management, past and present. The behind the scenes work that goes into the running of this and any club is unimaginable. From finding coaches, sorting through fixtures, managing budgets, keeping up with policies, running social events, raising funds, celebrating successes, managing defeats, re-surfacing fields, paying bills, not raising fees, fixing broken windows and lights, running a canteen, dealing with local Councils, running a club shop and of course keeping up with the community's expectations...just to mention a few. Those that volunteer their time for SUHC do so while receiving nothing in return. They pay their fees to play just like everyone else and some don't even play, they do it for the love of others.

I could list a whole heap of names of those I want to specifically thank but I'd be here all day. There is one person that I would not have made it through the last 8 years in this role without. She is one of the most selfless and caring women, she has supported every action and decision I have made and picked up quietly where and when I couldn't. Sue Styles you are an absolute gem and I would have been lost in this role without you. Thank you for everything you did for me and everything you have done and do for our club.

It has been a fulfilling position to hold and like all volunteer roles in all walks of life, often thankless and highly criticized. Given what we are all going through now in 2020 I hope that the future of SUHC brings more people that are happy to put their hand up to help and less people who decide to just be critical of those that do. At the end of the day we are an amateur local sporting club offering an activity to the wider community, something right now a lot of people are desperately missing from their lives.

Alisia Simmons
Women's Section Leader
Southern United Hockey Club



Southern United Hockey Club Junior Section 2019 Report

Southern United Hockey Club continued to provide an outstanding junior hockey program and experience through 2019. 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 Premiership. U16 Mixed Pennant Premiership
Runners Up: U14 Girls Pennant South Runners Up

Minor Premierships: U16 Mixed Pennant
Finalists: U12 Boys District

This on field success also followed into the Indoor Competitions with
Our U18 Girls winning the Club Championships
Our U13 Mixed Shield Team winning the MSAC 2019 Term 4 Competition
Our U18 Mixed Pennant Team Runners up Dandenong Term 4 Competition

Total teams Winter season:
U10 2 teams, U12 4 teams, U14 4 teams, U16 4 teams, U18 1 team.

Total teams Indoor season:
MSAC 3 teams (U13 girls, U13 boys, U15 mixed)
Dandenong 3 teams (U13, U15 and U18 mixed)
Skateworld 8 teams (3 U12, 2 U14, 1 U16 and 2 U18)
Club Champion Ships Indoor: 5 teams (U13 boys, U13 girls, U15 girls, U18 boys, U18 girls).

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. Whilst this has continued to drop in 2019 with the departure of a number of representative players to the senior teams and other clubs, the programs driving this have been renewed and reinvigorated. We had 32 players involved in various representative teams, 18 players in Victorian state teams, 1, Josie Lawton School Sport Australia 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 250 junior members in 2019: U8: 31, U10: 37, U12: 53, U14: 57, U16: 55 and U18: 17.

We also exposed over 1200 more primary school students to the sport of Hockey through School Visits (8 schools in 2 weeks) and come and try sessions resulting in 63 children participating in Hin2Hockey program. 31 kids joined the U8 program in 2019, a lot of them came from the Hin2H program.

A further 22 who came to our new Program called "4 fun Fridays" program as a follow up to the U8 program which finished end of term 3 and the FFF was in November in term 4. This was introduced to maintain the connection to the club prior to the beginning of the 2020 season and showed a good conversion level.

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 covers the Junior Secretary, Age Coordinators, Goalie training and gear coordinators, ball kids coordinators and participation in the social and



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fundraising committees. 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.

A new role in 2019 was the addition of the Junior Coaching Director, Jesse Workman. The committee introduced this role in an attempt to put more structure around the junior coaching and development programs to arrest a decline in on field results and representative participation. Early days of this program but our early 2020 Southern United Development Program had 41 participants and the invitational Southern United Hockey Academy had 37 participants showing the desire of our juniors to develop and improve. I believe that continued commitment to these programs will ensure we provide the best development opportunity for players of all standards and will deliver results in terms of representative recognition.

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. A special mention to the members of the mens P/L squad who have made themselves regularly available to assist with special training times and assistance at regular training.

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 President
Southern United Hockey Club



SUHC Masters Section Report 2019

The Southern United Masters section entered three teams in the HV Monday night Masters competition in the 45 and over age group (A, B & C Grade), and also two teams in the Wednesday night women's 35 and over A and B grade competitions. All 5 teams made the finals series with only our Ladies A grade team making the grand final, who unfortunately took home the silver medal. Thanks to those players who managed the 5 sides. A big thanks to our regular umpires Jacky Jacob, Haydon Jones, Tony Dayton and Trevor Jones. I'd also like to thank to Tim Cole for helping out with the Masters organising during the season.

45A Team:

2019 saw the 45A side take the field with only 5 other teams in the competition. The side had a pretty consistent season working around injuries etc. finishing the home and away rounds in 4th spot. The elimination final was against Doncaster who they had played in the week prior. The side was optimistic it could handle them again in the elimination final however that wasn't to be and they finished a creditable 4th.

Richard Thompson was again crowned Best & Fairest after another stellar season.

Many thanks to Stewart Fenton for again coaching the side in 2019.

Thanks once again to Allen Hart for managing the A grade team.

45B Team:

The 2019 Masters 45B team, on paper, looked to be a very talented squad with the 15 players selected to play. The team had mixed results during the season especially when illness and injury meant players were missing. They finished the season in 4th spot. The elimination final was played against a very fit and well trained Camberwell with our team carrying some injuries. The game was a credit to SUHC played with grit and determination but unfortunately the result did not go our way.

Stephen Blatherwick, who missed several games whilst covering for the 45A team, had an incredible season and was awarded the Best & Fairest.

Thanks once again to Jeff Busch for managing the B grade team.

45C Men's (mixed):

The 2019 45C Masters had a tough season after being minor premiers in 2018 and being promoted to C grade. The team had four wins and 3 losses during the year, and lost only 1-0 in several other games. The team was a great mix of players with six ladies regularly playing throughout the season. The team will go back into D grade in 2020 as a number of the regulars are not likely to be playing in 2020, so we will rebuild the team with some of our regular players and the addition of some newbies and get back to having fun each week.

Thanks to a number of players from the other teams that filled-in or doubled-up when we were short.

The Best & Fairest winner was Marcus Barber, a fast dynamic goal scoring forward who was missed dearly when he was not available to play.

Thanks once again to Tim Cole for managing the C grade team

35A Ladies Team:



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This team had a great season with 24 different women playing in the team over the year ending up with 13 wins, 2 draws and 5 losses and finishing in 2nd place. They had to find a replacement goalie after Sally had injured herself and was unable to play. A massive shout out to Bron Clarke for filling the void, and also to Cassie helping out when possible to allow Bron to play on the field.

They won the preliminary final with a convincing 3-0 win over Brunswick, the minor premiers. The Grand final was a very hard fought game against Mentone who have been the 35A premiers for several years in a row. The team were on the back foot from the get go and only had glimpses of the brilliance they were used to.

Special mention to Bron for another ripper night in goals, and to the dedicated supporters who went to the SNHC to support the team for the Grand Final.

Best and Fairest was awarded to Becky White who showed great control and composure with the ball and her work rate every week is likely one of the reasons they did so well in A grade

Massive shout out to Kate Sleeth for taking on the management of the A grade team. It was a challenge each week to make sure both ladies teams had enough players and Kate handled it all in her stride.

35B Ladies Team:

2019 saw the ladies add an extra team as it appeared we had sufficient numbers to regularly fill 2 teams. This actually proved quite challenging as a number of players decided to just “fill-in” so it meant we juggled players between the A & B grade teams.

The goal of this team was simple – to not finish last on the ladder.

The team had an amazing year with 27 different ladies playing in the team with some double ups from the A graders when the numbers were a bit low. Age was no barrier to playing hockey for this team ranging from 32 – 69 years.

The team smashed their goal by finishing 4th and making the final series.

The team drew their final with Swinburne 1-1 but unfortunately, due to HV miscommunication, there was no shoot out so ended up being eliminated.

Best and Fairest was a tie - both players impacted the team's performances in various ways – composure with the ball, the work ethic to attack and defend when required, and scored a few goals each. Awarded – Karina Stavropoulos & Suzie Styles.

Representative Hockey:

Congratulations to the following players selected to play for Victoria in the Australian Masters Championships in 2019

Womens:

(+35) Stef Adames, (+40) Tamsin Nelson, Shantel Hastings, (+50) Jacky Jacob & Greta De Bell,

(+55) Suzie Styles & Meaghan Morley, (+60) Phoebe Willcock

Mens:

(+35) Dave Rosser, (+40) David Hammond (**GOLD MEDAL**), (+45Div2) John Leighton (**GOLD MEDAL**), (+50Div1) James Erbacher, Brian Paxton, Shane Peachey, Richard Thompson,

(+50Div2) Stephen Blatherwick, (+60Div1) Greg Willcock, Graham Styles, (+65Div1) Ross Farmer



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Australian Selection from 2019 Championships for World Cup 2020:

Tamsin Nelson – Over 40 (Nottingham, England)

David Rosser – Over 35 (Nottingham, England)

Phoebe Willcock – Over 60 – shadow (Cape Town, South Africa)

Greg Willcock – Over 65 – shadow (Tokyo)

Suzie Styles,

Masters Section Leader