



Southern United Hockey Club Inc

Men, Women, Masters & Juniors

Southern United Hockey Club – President’s 2025 Report

The culmination of the 2025 calendar year sees your club in a very sound position. This is exemplified by an extremely healthy number of playing members and an increasing number of teams entered in the various Hockey Victoria affiliated Junior, Women’s, Men’s and Masters’ competitions.

Ongoing and sustainable player participation is the ultimate measure of success for any sporting organisation and we are no different. However success is also measured through the lens of team accomplishments at all levels, including the elite level of competition.

Major 2025 highlights included the amazing performances of our premiership winning Women’s Pennant B team and Under 18’s, together with each of our Women’s Pennant D, Women’s Pennant E and Masters teams, and Men’s Pennant C, all featuring in the Grand Final.

At the elite level, our Women’s Premier League team won its maiden minor premiership and our Men’s Premier League team made it back to back premierships, winning the grand final at the State Hockey Centre in one of the most exciting finishes to a major hockey match Victorian Hockey has ever witnessed.

We continued to marvel at the performances of our three very own and home grown Hockeyroos and Kookaburras in Amy Lawton, Nathan Ephraums and Craig Marais as they represented our country at the very highest level of our sport. In addition, Southern United continued to provide its fair share of Victorian State team representatives from under 12 to under 21 level, together with a number of representatives in Hockey Club Melbourne’s Women’s and Men’s teams.

While our club is currently witnessing a relatively high level of success at the top level, our club is cognisant that the work we do today is what will deliver the outcomes we desire tomorrow. In recognising this, the Committee of Management has resolved to set aside a greater quantum of resources for the next three years to facilitate an increased focus on individual player development within our junior section and those juniors entering seniors.

Critical to the sustainability of our club is the maintenance and evolution of our playing and ancillary facilities. To that end, we are in continued active dialogue with Kingston Council in regard to our current and potential future facilities. In parallel, we are investigating ways to improve the viewing experience of players and supporters at Farm Road. As you can imagine, these projects and initiatives are never as simple and straight forward as one would like!

The very existence and sustainability of our club is built almost exclusively upon the amazing support and efforts of our incredible volunteers. Without these volunteers, we don’t have a



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functioning organisation, appropriate leadership and administration, fit for purpose facilities, a safe, diverse and welcoming environment, and ultimately a home for people wanting to participate in the wonderful grass roots sport of hockey, both at the most recreational to the very elite level.

Again, thank you to all of those volunteers who have assisted during 2025, including administrators, ground managers, canteen managers and assistants, social committee, Safe Hockey enablers, umpires co-ordinators and the most visual of all, the team coordinators, managers, coaches and assistant coaches.

Thank you to all of those volunteers who contributed to our club in 2025. We look forward to your continued support, and hopefully to the contribution of new volunteers in 2026.

The club has recorded a small financial deficit for the 2025 reporting period. While there are many inputs to the final result, the most significant impact over the past two financial years is umpiring costs (which are approximately \$20,000 higher than they were two years ago), together with the additional financial resources we are dedicating to less expensive member access to development programs for our junior players and their parents.

The club continues to benefit from a relatively consistent level of sponsorship. However, this is an area we have identified requires increased focus moving forward.

My personal thanks to the members of our Committee of Management who continue to churn through an increased amount of work and responsibility year after year. A special thank you to Steve Duffield (Men's section leader), Deb Guiliani (Women's section leader), Marlene Lothian (Treasurer), and Mick Nixon (Junior section leader), for their enormous efforts in recent years. Each of these tireless contributors have elected not to stand for re-election at the Annual General meeting. We look forward to continuing our very valued association with each of these significant contributors to our club in the future.

In closing, we should be proud of our club community, its culture, what we stand for and our collective achievements. We have good reason to look forward to the ongoing sustainable success of our club into the future as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Southern United Hockey Club in 2026.

Ross Walker
President - Southern United Hockey Club



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Southern United Hockey Club – Treasurer’s 2025 Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer’s Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2025. The audited financial statements provide a clear overview of the Club’s financial position and performance, which remains stable despite a small operating deficit for the year. The report has been independently reviewed and approved by the Committee of Management (CoM).

Summary of Financial Results

For 2025, the Club recorded a net loss of \$2,389, compared with a profit of \$8,268 in 2024.

This outcome reflects increased operating costs in several areas and a slight decline in some income categories.

Our on-field activities resulted in an operating loss for the financial year. However, our financial success and stability are due to the success of our retail operations (the canteen and the shop) that generated a combined profit of \$27,954, general fundraising efforts that raised nearly \$14,000, and the continued financial support of our sponsors. A special thank you to our major sponsors, McKenzie’s and Buxton Real Estate in Brighton. We would also like to thank Bendigo Bank for their sponsorship this year. A total of \$34,643 has been received from our sponsors in total in 2025.

We saw an increase in assets in the Statement of Financial Position of \$41,761. Our term deposits increased by \$18,177, and our cash reserves grew by \$30,868, with accounts receivables reducing by \$14,633.

Peter Mac

Our club members continue to raise much needed funds for Peter Mac which also resulted in raising valuable funds for the club. Over the years, we have raised over \$100,000 for Peter Mac, including just over \$10,000 in the year ended 31 December 2025.

Conclusion

In summary, despite a modest deficit, the Club remains in a healthy financial position with strong reserves, stable revenue streams, and growing investment balances. Our financial resilience is a credit to the dedication of our volunteers, committee, sponsors, players, and supporters.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed throughout the year and supported the financial operations of the Club. I also extend my appreciation to the Committee for their collaboration and commitment.

I propose that the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 noted and received by members.

Marlene Lothian

Treasurer – Southern United Hockey Club



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Southern United Hockey Club – Women’s Section 2025 Report

2025 was an incredibly successful season for the women of Southern United.

Our Premier League women had their strongest year yet, ending their home and away season with 17 wins, three loses, two draws and in FIRST place. Our first Minor Premiership, and we couldn’t be prouder! Their hard work throughout the year earned them a week off for the first week of the finals. Week two of the finals did not go as planned with the ladies going down 1-2 to Camberwell, in a well-fought-out game. The Reserves had a good home and away season, with 8 wins, 8 loses, two draws and a 7th place finish, missing out on the finals by goal difference. Both teams continue to grow and develop, pushing themselves each week, and they should all be proud of what they achieved.

Pennant B had an incredible season with 11 wins, one loss and four draws, finishing 2nd on the ladder. They stepped their season up from the year before and grew 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, Camberwell, in with a strong 2-0 win in the first week, giving them a week off and a ticket straight to the big day. Grand Final day, SUHC brought their A-game and ran away with a 4-2 win, the Premiership and promotion to Pennant A for 2026! The ladies should be super proud of themselves and what they were able to achieve for the club.

Pennant D had a great year with 8 wins, 6 losses and two draws and a 3rd place ladder finish. Their strong finals campaign saw them beat 4th placed Waverley, 2-0, and 1st placed Camberwell, 2-1, to make it to the Grand Final. Unfortunately, MCC were too strong on the day and took out the win, but we still walked away with our heads held high and a well-earned silver medal. This team worked 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 E had a brilliant season with 12 wins, two loses and three draws, finishing 1st on the ladder, and our second Minor Premiership for the season. Unfortunately, their finals campaign did not end how they wanted it to. Winning in the first week of finals, they earned a week off but then went down in the Grand Final 0-1. The ladies should all be so proud of their Minor Premiership, and everything they achieved throughout the year.

Metro had a good season, with a number of new players, as well as juniors making their senior debut. They finished their season with 6 wins, 8 losses and four draws, placing them 6th on the ladder. The team worked hard all year, improved their skills, and grew as a team and should be proud of their efforts.

A huge thank you must go out to all the coaches involved in the Women’s Section. Jesse, your knowledge, experience and skills have been an invaluable addition. You have had such a great impact over the last 12 months to further develop the PL teams’ understanding of the game and the way in which they play. You have the purest love for hockey and a genuine desire to see your team be the best they can be. Ant, thank you for your tireless support of Jesse and the PL women. You add value to the team, you enable Jesse to do what he does best, and you support the women to be their best. Jason and



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Dillon, thank you for your passion and love for hockey and for imparting that onto our Reserves team. Your patience, knowledge and dedication to the game is so apparent and we greatly appreciate all your time and energy. Warren, thank you for putting up with the Pennant B women for another year. You bring fun and energy to training and games, you know exactly what your team needs and when, you forced new skills upon them, and you know how to inspire the best in them. Lindsay, thank you for your hard work with Pennant D. A forever changing line up makes for difficult coaching, but your knowledge of your players' abilities meant you were consistently able to make it work. Deb, thank you for your hard work with Pennant E. Player-coach is not an easy role, but coming away with a Minor Premiership is a brilliant result. Marlene, thank you for your time and effort with the Metro women. You developed their skills, knowledge and understanding of the game, which enabled a team with a range of abilities to get the most out of the hockey and to keep coming back.

Thank you as well to 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.

Submitted on behalf of the Women's Section

Alisia Simmons

Women's Section Leader

Southern United Hockey Club



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Southern United Hockey Club – Men’s Section Report 2025

It is with great pleasure that we present the annual report for the Men’s Section of Southern United Hockey Club for the 2025 season. This year has been one of strong performance, continued growth and connection across all grades.

The clear highlight was our Men’s Premier League team winning the Grand Final. A tremendous effort by all members of the squad, team management and coaches. The group delivered when it mattered most and represented the club with pride.

A special mention to Neil Hodgson in his first year as Head Coach. Neil has been outstanding in his introductory season. His planning, communication and commitment to growing the club, both on and off the field, have been first class. Thank you, Neil, for your leadership and energy.

Across the section, we maintained strong numbers, healthy depth and a clear focus on player development. The effort and standards shown across all grades reflect the culture we continue to build. Thank you to the Men’s Committee, coaches, managers and support staff for the time and work that often goes unseen but is critical to our success.

As many know, this season will be my final one as Men’s Section Leader. Stepping into the role during COVID was a challenge, but it has been a privilege to serve and to be part of this amazing club. I am proud of what we have built together and grateful for the support along the way.

Ed Arnold will take on the role moving forward. He has already hit the ground running and will be a breath of fresh air for the section. Good luck, Ed, and thank you for your support — the Men’s program is in great hands.

Finally, thank you to all players, families, sponsors and volunteers who make Southern United what it is. We look forward to building on this success in 2026.

Submitted on behalf of the Men’s Section

Steven Duffield

Men’s Section Leader

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Southern United Hockey Club – Junior Section Report 2025

The Junior Section of Southern United Hockey Club continued to play a vital role in the overall strength and future of the Club throughout the 2025 season. Our focus remained on providing a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment where young players could develop their hockey skills, build confidence, and foster a lifelong connection to the Club.

Participation and Teams

The 2025 season saw continued engagement across our junior age groups and the Junior Section maintained solid participation levels and ensured that all registered players were provided with appropriate opportunities to train and compete. We fielded:

- One under 18 mixed side, who won a premiership.
- Three under 16 teams; One boys, one girls and one mixed.
- Four under 14 teams; Two boys, one mixed and one girls.
- Three under 12 mixed teams; and
- Ran under 8 and under 10 venue based competitions at Farm Road.

We are one of the most active clubs for indoor hockey, also fielding seven junior teams in the term 4 indoor competitions.

Player Development and Coaching

2025 saw the re-introduction of the Southern United Junior Development program, featuring a skills program developed by John Mowat. Club continued to support junior players through structured training sessions focused on skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

We are fortunate to have a committed group of coaches, many of whom are volunteers or club members, who gave generously of their time. The Junior Section also benefited from the guidance of senior players and coaches, helping to strengthen pathways from junior to senior hockey within the Club.

Umpiring and Officiating

The Junior Section acknowledges the importance of developing young umpires alongside players. Throughout the season, junior umpires were encouraged and supported, contributing not only to match day operations but also to their understanding of the game. The Club thanks all umpires and umpire mentors for their ongoing commitment.



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Welfare, Inclusion and Club Culture

Ensuring a positive and inclusive environment for all junior players remained central to the Junior Section's activities. The Club continued to uphold its child safety obligations and promote respectful behaviour on and off the field.

The support of parents and guardians was instrumental in maintaining a welcoming and supportive culture, and their contributions—whether through team management, canteen duty, transport, or general encouragement—are greatly appreciated.

Volunteers and Support

The Junior Section would not function without its volunteers. Coaches, team managers, coordinators, and committee members all contributed significantly throughout the year.

On behalf of the whole club, I extend sincere thanks to everyone who assisted during the season. I would particularly like to thank Mick Nixon our Junior Section leader for 2025, who has recently stepped away from this role. Mick brought tremendous energy into his role and his enthusiasm was felt across the whole junior section.

Your efforts make a meaningful difference to the experience of our junior players.

Looking Ahead

2026 priorities for the Junior Section are:

- Further focus on development, with another iteration of the Junior Development program and focus on providing coaches with opportunities to improve their coaching skills
- Greater focus on coaching resources, where we have secured more coaches for the season such that individual coaches can share the workload
- Growing participation across all junior age groups, but with a very direct focus on growing participation for girls
- Supporting the transition of junior players into senior hockey
- Maintaining a positive, inclusive, and family-friendly club environment

We will also welcome a new Junior Section leader in Donna-Jane Accornley, who is already bringing fresh thinking into our section.



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We look forward to building on the foundations laid in 2025 and continuing to support the development of our young players both as hockey players and as individuals.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Club Committee, the Junior Committee, coaches, volunteers, parents, and players for their ongoing support and dedication throughout the 2025 season.

Submitted on behalf of the Junior Section

Roger Arnold

Acting Junior Section Coordinator

Southern United Hockey Club



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Southern United Hockey Club – Men’s Section 2025 Report

The Southern United Masters Section provides an opportunity for players over 45 to play competitive, social and inclusive hockey.

The Masters Section continues to be a strong contributor to the overall culture, stability and community spirit of the Club with many members in Committee, volunteering or other roles.

Participation and Teams

We fielded four teams in Hockey Victoria competitions; an over 45 C grade team on Mondays, an over 50 team in the Hawthorn based competition on Mondays, an over 50 A grade team on Wednesdays and a Ladies over 35 team on Wednesdays.

Teams and team members play competitive hockey and foster a great level of camaraderie which remains one of its defining features, making the Section welcoming and enjoyable for both long-standing and new members. In 2025 we welcomed a number of new players, or past players returning after some time away from the game.

Both over 50s teams and our Ladies over 35 team made finals.

Facilities and Administration

The Section acknowledges the ongoing work of the Club Committee in managing facilities, administration and communication throughout the season. Access to grounds, clubrooms and equipment remains essential to the success of the Masters program, and the efforts of those involved behind the scenes are sincerely appreciated.

We would particularly like to acknowledge our regular umpires; Hamish Layzell, Eve Hunter, Cai Henzell, Chris McMullen and Jack Marquardt. The standard of umpiring at Farm Road is strong and even opposition sides are complimentary about your impartiality and game control. Thank you.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, the Masters Section will need to adapt to some changes in the Hockey Victoria Masters competition, notably in a revision of over 45s mens/mixed to over 45.



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The most significant news for 2026 is that we expect to introduce a Ladies over 45 team alongside our Ladies over 35 team. This new team will open up more opportunities for our Ladies players and is an exciting development for the Club.

We also expect to field a Monday over 40s side, a Monday over 50s side and a Wednesday over 50s side.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Masters Section, I would like to thank all players, coaches, managers, umpires, volunteers and committee members for their efforts throughout the 2025 season. Your continued support ensures the ongoing success of the Masters program and the Club as a whole.

I would also like to acknowledge Suzie Styles, our Masters Section Leader before 2025. Suzie not only 'handed' me a well organised section but has also remained a key leader in the section and a driving force behind the growth in our Ladies masters, alongside the great work that she does managing our club shop.

Submitted on behalf of the Master's Section

Roger Arnold

Masters Section Leader

Southern United Hockey Club