

SUHC Men's Section Match Reports – R2

Each week we are encouraging Coaches, Team Managers and interested parties to send through Match reports for publishing – multiple reports from a team are fine so if you like putting pen to paper and writing up something then please send it through to me by Wednesday each week – helen@ward.com.au Thanks to Jesse, Steve, Jono & Mike - the coaches from MPL/Reserves/PA & F Troop for their contributions this week.

SUHC PL vs Casey Canons



The Southern men took on the Casey Cannons in their first home game of the season on ANZAC day in front of a sizeable crowd.

Southern narrowly lost to a strong Hawthorn team the week before and were keen to get their campaign underway against the newly promoted Casey side who went through last year's Vic League 1 competition unbeaten.

After a nice ANZAC ceremony headlined by club legend Ken Walker and State junior Max Dalton the game got underway with Southern causing the Cannons trouble early on with their ball movement and structure. Mark Scully managed to get on the board early on with a nice deflection from a penetrating ball through the middle of the ground by Matt L'Huillier.

For the next few minutes Southern continued to push the pace and keep Casey on the back foot with Casey looking to block the middle and then hit Southern on the counter. Casey were struggling to deal with how Southern were moving from 4 at the back to 3 and Dutch import Rens Vernij was given too much time to pick of long balls direct to the Southern strikers or to midfielders in dangerous areas of the field.

Southern's strikers weren't as efficient as they would of liked and little skill errors or poor last passes meant they didn't score as many goals early as they could of and Casey managed to break out and

gain a couple of circle penetrations and shots of their own that custodian Ed Arnold dealt with, continuing his good form.

Southern maintained their dominance for the rest of the first half and Scully managed to bag another goal as did the in form Todd McHardy giving Southern a 3-0 lead going into half time.

Southern changed a couple of things structurally at half time to allow a bit more flow though the midfield and the first 15 minutes after half time they moved the ball around really well with L'Huillier and Sean Laidlaw and Todd McHardy coming into their own.

A few minutes into the half L'Huillier scored a trademark drag flick and McHardy scored the goal of the game after beating 2 Casey players around the edge of the circle before driving to the baseline and flicking it over the Casey goalkeepers left shoulder.

L'Huillier then scored a stroke to make it 6-0 with plenty of time left and the game looked like it was going to blow out. However an injury to young star Josh Ephraums and the fight shown from the Casey team meant that didn't happen. Southern had some more chances from the field and from Penalty corners but failed to convert and then a rare out letting mistake from Southern gave Casey their first chance for a while and they made mistake making it 6-1.

The last 10 minutes the game was a bit nonchalant and no more goals were scored. Southern happy to take the 3 points and hopefully kick-start a successful year.



MPL Reserves

After a tough first round match against Hawthorn the PLR men were looking forward to earning some much needed points in the match against Casey at home. There was a large crowd at home, with the ANZAC commemorations and the PL men playing directly beforehand. The PLR men started well creating a great scoring opportunity within the first minute. Unfortunately it was unable to be converted and the goalkeeper made the save. The PLR men continued to attack and move the ball well around the field creating numerous scoring opportunities and penalty corners. Casey struggled to move the ball out of their defensive area of the field effectively and the sustained pressure from the PLR men resulted in well pressured turnovers. The PLR easily recorded the points with an 8-1 win over Casey.

MPA

Pennant A's match this weekend was v's Greensborough who were coming off a 3-2 win over reigning premiers Camberwell in round 1. A huge effort of intensity and determination saw a hard fought 0-0 draw. There were significant similarities between both sides beyond the 0-0 score line. However Steve Flack felt things were not even enough and decided to give Greensborough an edge by getting himself sent off twice. Once with a green card and once with a yellow. From the side lines you could see a glint in the eye of fines master Hayden Jones who was seeing dollar signs every time Flack went near the ball.

Saviour of the day was the short corner defensive unit defending what seemed like hundreds, but was more like 15 penalty corners. However the question needs to be asked why they gave away that many in the first place. It's been suggested that Simo just like to be kept in the play. We were not helped by the attacking short corner unit who failed to successfully execute an attacking play at any stage during the game but managed to place blame squarely on the lack of practice due to the lighting situation at Dendy Street. There is nothing quite like delegating responsibility and blame, especially when things go wrong. This week's game is against MUHC and we look forward to the possibility of some goals from short corners now that they were practiced at training during the week

Pennant F Troop

Getting a team on the pitch an issue this week with half the selected team withdrawing. Luckily fixturing allowed Pennant E to double up - a big thanks to those that helped out, especially Jelly - second week in a row. We started slowly and Waverley started throwing weight around early. 0-0 at half time. Dave Fisher scored from a short corner early in the second half but the Waverley attacks kept coming. Bryce was fantastic in goals keeping our nose in front. A drag flick from Stretch earned a stroke and a dribble flick from Brooks scored, much to the keepers horror! As I say low and hard at the corner (and the song says two out of three ain't bad). Everyone dead on their feet at the end but 2-0 winners. Sang Waverley the song, they loved it! Best: Bryce, Alex, Riley.

Photo's courtesy of Anne-Marie Cupplies