

Match Reports for R3

SUHC PL vs. Doncaster

The Southern Men travelled to Doncaster on Saturday in a crucial match for both teams.

Doncaster got off to a very fast start and were 3-0 up after 15 minutes. For the rest of the 2nd half the game ebbed and flowed with both teams creating chances and moving the ball around well.

With 7 minutes to go in the first stanza Southern earned a corner and converted it though a nice variation between Matt L'Huillier and Sean Laidlaw.

A stern team talk and a few home truths were delivered at half time and the Southern boys came out with a bit more vigour and urgency and managed to create the lion's share of chances in the second half. A brilliant drag flick from L'Huillier got the score back to 2-3 with 15 minutes to go and Southern had all the momentum.

Doncaster managed to defend well in deep defence and beat the Southern strikers to contests which meant Southern couldn't quite get the equalizer despite throwing everything at them including substituting the keeper with two minutes to go and throwing extra players forward.

The result, although frustrating, shows how close the men are to the best teams in the league and it will only be a matter of time before they are on the right side of the score line and push their way up the ladder.

Southern play neighbour's Waverley on Saturday on Heritage Day at Farm Road and with a win can leapfrog them on the table and possibly even sneak into the top four.

MPL Reserves v Doncaster

The SUHC Men's PLR reserve team made the long trip north to Doncaster for their round 3 clash. As expected the match was very fast and physical from the very first whistle. Unfortunately the team started a bit slow and Doncaster was able to score their first goal early in the match from the field. Doncaster continued to play the game at a fast pace, showing a lot of individual running. The PLR guys stepped up the intensity as the first half continued and began to pressure the Doncaster defenders and goalkeeper through some really good attacking passages of play. The score at the half time whistle was 2-4 in Doncaster's favour. The second half continued to be a fast affair with both team's creating numerous opportunities. The SUHC PLR team scored a goal to bring the gap to one goal and were looking at taking the game head on. Unfortunately the game see-sawed back and forth and the final score ended with a 4-6 win to Doncaster.

MPA v MUHC

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is going to be a very one sided story about the day Southern United played Melbourne University Hockey Club & 2 guys dressed in yellow!

Our game was for 2pm on Sunday, well we needed to leave home Saturday night just to make it to the ground. Our mission involved trekking through the concrete jungle, as we parked our cars in what felt like was in NSW.

We all eventually made it to the ground on time, looking smart and professional... Apart for Tiny...

He decided to dig out his Dad's old tracksuit which was Green & Purple, that mixed in with his push bike decorated in structurally integral electric tape made us look like a unit that were ready to get one over the reigning premiers.

We hit the field hard and fired up!

The 'umpire' blew his whistle and the game was started!!

The first half saw Steve Flack get 'rested' with a Green card, the 'umpire' clearly recognized that he was tearing the field up, and thought it would be good to rest him for 2 minutes so he didn't get too tired.

There were attacking plays going both ways, after an amazing field goal from our most poorly dressed member, Tiny the scores were Drawn, we were looking good!

The half time whistle was blown, and the scores were 3-1 going MUHC's way... The Game Was Anybody's!

After a stern talking to, from Zac, Kinga & our marvellous Leader Jono! We were back out ready to bring the pain.

Unfortunately that wasn't executed all that well, and because of some very poor turnovers we watched the game get taken out of our grasp.

We fought hard the entire 70 minutes, but we just didn't have what it took to get one over them this time.

The final whistle was blown, and the final score was 7-1.

It's still early on in the season, we have plenty of work to do! We have a great team, it's only a matter of time before we start to gel on the field as well as we do off!

Written by Steve Flack

MPC v Hawthorn

The first three matches we played, they were against the top three teams in our competition. We've been very competitive and only going down 3-2 in two of the games.

We have a relatively new group where many of the guys hadn't played together before and a relatively young side. Been very impressed with the work rate from everyone and I've no doubt our fortune will turn very soon.

Over the weekend we played Hawthorn and lost 3-2 but I just wanted to make a special mention about Dan's 2 goals.

Dan made an early call at the top of the circle from a turn over outside the 22 yard line. After a small fumble of the ball he managed to quickly get control of it as the keeper started to come out to close down his space. With the ball on the reverse stick, and as admitted by the man himself, he doubted he could go around the keeper, as a couple of defenders were quickly coming too. Dan had the presence in mind to pull off one of the great goals. The ball was raised in the air and the keeper reached high with all his might but to no avail. The ball arched down and two quick defenders merged at the goal with sticks swinging everywhere. With a loud roar from the few supporters around, the ball snuck in under the cross bar and a mighty celebration began. A short time later, we got a short corner and not satisfied with one goal Dan put himself in space to the left of the dot. The first and second runners came out fast but left an opening towards Dan. As the ball was passed the goal opened up and with all his might Dan

slapped that ball into the back board with a thundering thud. Everyone was jumping up and down with celebration but we couldn't quite pull off a come back.

Well done Dan and to all the PC players. One can't do it all by himself but with mates help we can.

F Troop v Yarra Valley

Week three and we are proving competitive in the new grade. The team's 50% turn over in personnel each week isn't helping build any structures. Game was a fast moving tight struggle for most of the 70 minutes. 2-3 down at half time. Packo and Jason B scoring from a shortie and a break away respectively. Packo slotted a second short corner early in the second half to even the score at 3-all. Yarra had two impressive scores from the first two games and they showed they are a likely finals team by overrunning us in the second half and winning 6-3. Their short corner structures are something we can learn from with a mix of passing around and direct shots. Thanks to all those who helped fill-in (Louis, Packo, Doc Martin & Felix).

Mike's best for the day: Louis Carstens; Brian Paxton; Felix Martin

Summary of Men's games

MPL – lost to Doncaster 2-3

Reserves – lost to Doncaster 4-6

MPA – lost to MUHC 1 – 7

MPC – lost to Hawthorn 3-4

MPD – lost to Casey 3 – 4

MPE - lost to Camberwell 3 – 4

MPF – lost to Yarra Valley 3-6

MMA – defeated St Bedes 3 - 0

MMB – defeated Casey 2 - 0