

School Sport Australia
2011 Boys South Africa Hockey Tour
Match Reports

Match 1

Friday the 1st of July and with the boys still struggling to overcome Jetlag we headed South along the West Coast of the Cape Peninsula. This scenic trip saw us take in Hout Bay and a trip to Seal Island, with many Seals looking to entertain the onlookers (to the dismay of some boys, there were no Great Whites lurking). Further South and along Chapman's Peak drive and some stunning natural beauty until we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope nature Reserve, encompassing Cape Point, and the Cape of Good Hope (most south-eastern point of Africa). Here we were entertained by some Baboons. From here we started to head North again this time on the East side of the Cape Peninsula to Boulder's Beach and a visit to the Penguin Colony that makes it's home there. And finally further North through the affluent areas of Constantia, Newlands & Rhondebosch.

Pinelands Hockey Club assembled a team of First & Second Division players for our first practice match @ Hartleyvale Stadium. A solid start from the Aussies saw Captain Jack Elliott deflect home a reverse stick pass from Brandan Horner on the far post in the 5th minute. A couple of minutes a superb overhead from Jadium Rees was picked up by Brandan Horner and carried into the circle where the baby of the team Tom Craig put the loose ball away to make the scoreline 2-0. Less than 5 minutes later Pinelands responded with a good build up finding it's way into the back of the net off a rebound, 2-1. In the 17th minute Tom Craig scored again, this time with a superb backstick shot from the top of the circle to put the Aussie Schoolboys 3-1 up, which they held til half time thanks to solid defensive work from Jadium Rees, Luke Tyne & James Olsen in the net.

The second half started quickly and it wasn't long before some good defensive pressure from Brandan Horner and Stuart Shepherd saw a turnover just outside the circle, the result was a tap in for Tom Craig's hat-trick to put the Aussie Schoolboys 4-1 up. The game ebbed and flowed with both teams having chances. Pinelands earned the first penalty corner of the match but the shot went wide. Goalkeeper Dom Hird made a great save (with his helmet) to deny the Pinelands Captain an opportunistic goal as he moved forward in search of the goal that would give them a sniff. The Aussie Schoolboys shows some promising build up play but failed to convert possession into score. In the 67th minute some fine work from Nick Hill was finished off with a tap in goal to Brandan Horner, giving the final score of 5-1.

Australian Schoolboys 5 - 1 Pinelands Hockey Club
Goalscorers: Tom Craig 3, Jack Elliott, Brandan Horner.
Best Players: Nick Hill, Tom Craig, Jadium Rees.

Match 2.

An inspirational visit to Robben Island to see where Nelson Mandela spent 27 years of his life has inspired the Aussie Schoolboys on to a fantastic result against what was supposed to be a stronger team than that from their 1st mach.

Despite Coach David Audescho being bed ridden with a virus, a relentless and clinical performance saw the Aussie Schoolboys get home 14-2 against Western Province Hockey Club. Team Manager Andrew Mellor took the reigns in the absence of Audescho.

The scoring started in the 3rd minute when Nick Hill slotted home from a tight angle. This was followed by a field goal from Jack Elliott in the 6th minute. Less than 3 minutes later, Luke Tyne overlapped down the right with ease and glided into the circle, a drag to his left and a tomahawk went low and fast into the opposite corner of the net, 3-0. Some excellent defending at the back kept the Western Province side from gaining some ground in the match. The Aussie boys won a series of penalty corners, with successful flicks coming from Jadium Rees in the 17th minute and Jack Elliott in the 19th minute, 5-0. Jack Elliott finished off some fine work with a deflection in the 24th minute before Nick Hill scored again to make it 7-0 in the 27th minute. A lapse in concentration allowed the Western Province side some relief and they took full advantage, earning a couple of penalty corners. Nick Hill was sin binned for 5 minutes for arguing with the umpire, and the resulting corner was duly put away, with the half ending 7-1.

The second half started with the same relentless pressure as the first, Jack Elliott scoring a field goal in the 37th minute and a penalty corner in the 39th minute. Stuart Shepherd finished off some nice build up play to score 2 field goals in the 44th and 48th minute. The game started to stagnate, with Western Province starting to string passes together and make some inroads. The result was a field goal in the 57th minute to make the scoreline 11-2. The Aussie Schoolboys rounded out the game in style with Nick Hill scoring from a penalty corner in the 60th minute, Tom Craig in the 64th minute and Jack Elliott in the 67th minute. 14-2

Australian Schoolboys 14 - 2 Western Province Hockey Club

Goalscorers: Jack Elliott 6, Nick Hill 3, Stuart Shepherd 2, Tom Craig, Jadium Rees, Luke Tyne.

Best Players: Jack Elliott, Luke Tyne, Kyle Gildea

Match 3

Sunday 3rd July

Our only daytime match and sunshine greeted the Aussie Boys for their match against Central Hockey Club at Hartleyvale Stadium, Cape Town.

Confident after their 14-2 win last night, and with Coach David Audescho still ill, Andrew Mellor once again took the reigns. Their opponents looked switched on from the start, while the Aussie Boys looked a bit flat, with Central wasting several scoring opportunities early. An entertaining 1st half provided scoring opportunities for both teams, in what was turning out to be an excellent opportunity for the Aussie boys against a well organized, disciplined and talented opposition. There were a couple of high points with the Aussie boys at times playing some excellent hockey. The midfield being well served by Kyle Gildea and Shayne Smith. The highlight being the only goal for the 1st half in the 35th minute. Starting with a one two between Michael Menzie and Jadium Rees near the defensive 25, an inside ball to Ross Hall, who then slipped it to Tom Craig and received it back on the run forward, Hall then slipped a ball down the line for Jack Elliott who crossed for Brandan Horner to deflect home. 6 passes, end to end, goal!

The second half started much the same as the first, with both sides trying desperately to take a strangle hold and break the opposition's defences. In the 57th minute Jack Elliott popped the ball home, to make the lead 2-0. However the lead didn't last long with Central hitting back in the 59th through a superb drag flick, score now 2-1. As the situation of the match started to tighten the Aussie boys looked to flex their skill, with the strength of Luke Tyne, Matthew Munnik and Jadium Rees at the back proving very important. A well worked corner variation in the 68th minute allowed Nick Hill to score and seal the match 3-1. A well fought and hard earned victory against a well organized opposition.

Australian Schoolboys 3 - 1 Central Hockey Club

Goalscorers: Jack Elliott, Brandan Horner, Nick Hill

Best Players: Luke Tyne, Shayne Smith, Kyle Gildea

Match 4

Monday 4th July

On to Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, and to our hosts for the next few days, St. Alban's College. A Match up against an invitational team from the Old Albanians Hockey Club, including South African International Justin Reid-Ross (himself a player in one of these South African v Australian Schoolboys Series in 2004). There was a small crowd made up of the Australian boys' parents, and plenty of locals boosted by players from teams participating in the South African Under 16 Interprovincial Championships, which is taking place during the day at the same venue.

On a cold and blustery night the Aussie boys looked like they were switched on and had a purpose. The result was 5 goals in the first 15 minutes, the first from Stuart Shepherd in the 6th minute. This was followed by a flurry of 4 goals, Brandan Horner in the 10th, Harry Page in the 12th, Horner again in the 13th, and a fist pumping Kyle Gildea in the 15th minute. The match started to heat up and the midfield battle between Jadium Rees and Justin Reid-Ross a highlight. Further goals to Harry Page in the 27th minute and Stuart Shepherd in the 29th saw the Aussie boys head in 7-0 at halftime.

The second half fluctuated much more with both teams enjoying sustained periods of possession and dominance. The Aussie boys scored in the 43rd minute with Stuart Shepherd securing his hat-trick. However these seemed to spark Justin Reid-Ross into action, as he imposed himself on the match, scoring in the 47th minute and causing the Australian defence some headaches. However some excellent goalkeeping from James Olsen kept Reid-Ross from scoring again. Nick Hill (to who the Australian Schoolboys dedicated this match too) scored in the 59th minute to close out the game, resounding 9-1 winners.

After the game the boys were treated like celebrities with many of the spectators seeking out players for autographs.

Australian Schoolboys 9 - 1 Old Albanian Hockey Club

Goalscorers: Stuart Shepherd 3, Brandan Horner 2, Harry Page 2, Kyle Gildea, Nick Hill.

Best Players: Harry Page, Kyle Gildea, Nick Hill

Match 5

Wednesday 6th July – 1st Test Match

In front of a parochial and at times hostile South African crowd (With up to 24 teams competing in the South African Under 16 Inter Provincial Championship making up the crowd) the Australian Schoolboys have secured a gutsy 3-2 win over their more physical opponents in the first of three test matches.

The Aussie Boys started the better of the two teams, controlling the play and attacking with plenty of vigour. In a perfect opening a penalty corner break down deflected off a defender to an unmarked Shayne Smith tapping the ball home on the left hand post in the 3rd minute, Australia 1-0. In the 8th minute the South Africans found a hole in the Australian defence with James Drummond finding himself one-on-one against Australian keeper James Olsen, with Olsen making an excellent diving save low to his left. The Aussie boys were rewarded for their excellent play winning a penalty corner in the 15th minute. James Knee was on hand to put the ball away after Nick Hill's initial shot was saved by Hendrik Kroukamp, Australia 2-0. This seemed to spark the South African's into action, and they began to physically impose themselves on the game. Hand injuries to Jack Elliott, Jadium Rees and Shayne Smith proved costly, as the South Africans worked their way back into the match. In the 21st minute the South Africans secured their only penalty corner of the match, however the flick from Michael Mulder went wide. A defensive lapse in the 35th minute allowed the South Africans to score from a deflection through Cerezo Comerasamy, Australia 2-1 at half-time.

The second half represented a seesaw battle, as both teams tentatively looked to take advantage of the other. The Aussie boys drew first blood when Jadium Rees converted a penalty corner in the 48th minute, after some good build up work from Kyle Gildea, Australia 3-1. The physicality of the South Africans seemed to shock the Aussie Boys as they went into their shell, and began to lose focus on the match. 2 Cards, the first a questionable yellow to Shayne Smith in the 59th minute, and a Green to Nick Hill in the 61st minute reduced the Australians to 9 players. The South Africans seized this opportunity and finally penetrated the Australian defence with Ignatius Malgraff putting the ball away in the 62nd minute, Australia 3-2. This set the match up for a frantic final few minutes, with both teams having opportunities, but neither able to convert. The South Africans pushed hard as time wound down, but the Aussie boys hung on to record a gutsy 3-2 win, and take a 1-0 lead in the 3 test series..

Australian Schoolboys 3 - 2 South Africa U18

Goalscorers: James Knee, Jadium Rees, Shayne Smith

Best Players: Jadium Rees, Kyle Gildea, Matthew Munnik

Match 6

Thursday 7th July – 2nd Test

The Australian Schoolboys team has taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the 3 test series against South Africa U18, after winning the 2nd Test 4-3 in Pretoria.

With several key players carrying injuries the Aussie boys didn't look their normal ruthless self, and took a back seat as South Africa scored in the 12th minute with Ignatius Malgraff finishing off some good teamwork South Africa 1-0. The Aussie boys looked to respond and with the introduction of the tenacious James Knee and Stuart Shepherd up front took the upper hand. In the 17th minute Jadium Rees made no mistake from the penalty corner mark, scores level 1-1. South African goalkeeper Bernard Greybe made some excellent saves keeping SA in the game as the teams headed for half-time deadlocked at 1-1.

The second half started like the first with South Africa taking control early, a turnover and some neat passing saw Grant Glutz diving at full stretch to deflect the ball home in the 39th minute, South Africa 2-1 up and the crowd coming to life. The Aussie boys responded well with some good work from Harry Page and a goal mouth scramble from Brandan Horner earning a penalty stroke converted by Jack Elliott, scores level 2-2. The Aussie boys began to press well and the South Africans began to make mistakes. James Knee followed up a rebound from Nick Hill's initial shot in the 49th minute to put Australia 3-2 in front. To the credit of the South Africans they continued to persevere and in the 64th minute won a penalty corner following a midfield turnover. Grant Glutz promptly placed the ball low to the keepers right and scores were level again 3-3. As the game ebbed and flowed the game was there for the taking, the Aussie boys seemed to have the measure of the counterparts but couldn't find the goal they needed. A superb run from Luke Tyne through the midfield caught the South African defence off guard and a neat slip pass to Nick Hill was rewarded with a penalty corner in the 68th minute for a blatant deliberate push outside the circle. Jadium Rees promptly delivered the goal to seal victory 4-3.

Australian Schoolboys 4 – 3 South Africa U18

Goalscorers: Jadium Rees 2, Jack Elliott, James Knee

Best Players: Jadium Rees, James Knee, Luke Tyne

Match 7

Friday 8th July – 3rd Test

A wounded Australian Schoolboys team will leave South Africa undefeated after a gallant comeback in the 3rd and final test against the South African Under 18 team. With vice-captain Jadium Rees injured and Captain Jack Elliott struggling with a virus, the rest of the team pulled together to draw 2-2, and almost pinched the match at the death.

After a poor start that had goalkeeper James Olsen working overtime, the Aussie boys finally clicked into gear with James Knee scoring for the 3rd consecutive test with a diving field goal in the 24th minute after some excellent end to end play starting with Sam Liles and involving Nick Hill, Luke Tyne, Tom Craig and Harry Page, 1-0.

South Africa responded almost immediately with a well worked penalty corner goal to James Drummond in the 26th minute, 1-1. South Africa closed out the half with a well worked transfer of the ball finding Grant Glutz unmarked with literally seconds left on the clock, 1-2 at halftime.

The Aussie boys responded well after halftime, clicking into gear. In the 38th minute with another end to end goal, starting with a well worked overhead from Luke Tyne finding Shayne Smith in space who released the ball to James Knee who crossed for a diving Harry Page to put the ball away, 2-2. The match started to open up as both teams tentatively searched for the goal that could be the winner. The defences of both teams worked overtime. Tom Craig had two opportunities to win the match, the first a reverse stick shot after breaking into the top of the circle that hit the inside of the post, and the penultimate play of the match that found him with little space one on one with South African keeper Bernard Greybe with less than a minute remaining. However the South African keeper kept his feet and managed to deflect the ball out of play. The match ending in a 2-2 draw with Australia winning the 3 test series 2-0.

In an exhibition finish both sides took part in a One-on-one penalty shootout. James Olsen in goals was outstanding for the Australians, conceding only 1 goal as he forced the South Africans to shoot from wide angles. For the Aussie Boys, Tom Craig, Ross Hall, Shayne Smith and Luke Tyne all converted to give the Australians a 4-1 win in the shootout!

Australian Schoolboys 2 – 2 South Africa U18

Goalscorers: James Knee, Harry Page

Best Players: Luke Tyne, James Olsen, James Knee, Sam Liles