

THE PRESIDENT'S PITCH



2 AUGUST 2016

Exciting winter season run home

With 3 (juniors) or 4 (seniors) home & away games remaining, the 2016 season is certainly approaching critical end points for all our teams. Whilst it is tight the U14 and U12 levels look well represented in finals. At Senior level we are very well placed to feature in many finals and playing some great hockey. Congratulations to our junior members who made the U13 & U14 State squads, and also the U18 development squads. Too many for me to name which is a good sign.

SNHC entry

Remember many of the finals are played at SNHC, and they is an admission charge unless you have a player or supporter membership which admits to all hockey games including all finals there. The later costs just \$20 with \$5 going straight to the club. So it won't take many visits to SNHC for pay back, you need to allow at least a week for mail out go to link:

<http://www.yarravalleyhockey.com.au/2016/registrations-for-winter-2016-are-open/>

Fair Go Sport

This weekend as a club we will highlight and celebrate diversity and raise the importance of having inclusive, safe and welcoming environments. Our club in particular is incredibly diverse so we must celebrate this diversity and demonstrate it is an environment in which a member of the LGBTIQ community feels safe, welcomed and included. See more:

<http://www.hockeyvictoria.org.au/NEWS/ceos-fair-go-sport-message>

PLEC

Andrew Skillen (HV CEO) will join us for the second Coterie lunch on Saturday and will present Fair Go Sport medals to best players in VL1 games. The Premier League Entry Criteria will be a topic of conversation where YVHC is the third highest ranked club in Victoria for "off field" points (in either PL or VL1) – based largely on member engagement from H2H & juniors to masters. We look forward to celebrating further wins with our Men's and Women's VL1 teams during the last 4 games to be well set to enter PL in 2017. Women's VL1 sits on top of the ladder but needs to close out the season with wins to

stay there. The Men are second and will secure a top 2 and even finish on top if they hold their form for the final 4 rounds.

New Turf

The winter rain is showing up our ground and the urgent need for replacement. Fund raising is going well and huge shout out to Kin Smith and all who helped with the Trivia / Auction night where we raised significant funds, and a team including yours truly cleaned up on the Trivia. Banyule CC have appointed a Project Consultant to set specification for tendering. We are now working with them to set key specifications to ensure a great outcome for all. Council elections (November) and caretaker provisions (from Sept 20) are probably the only barrier to getting this done prior to Christmas. We will shortly be contacting members to press their Banyule Council candidates re commitment to support a **second pitch** for YVHC (which incidentally the current Mayor fully supports).

Coaching and Umpiring

We held a fantastic Level Coaching course a last weekend @ Yarra, run expertly by Senior Coach Zac Hawes and all participants who were either Senior or Junior coaches came away far better for the exercise. Look out for the next course as we want to get all our coaches to at least level 1.

There are opportunities for umpiring training and accreditation coming up in the next month, I know there are several Yarra members who will take advantage of this and I commend all who are interested in umpiring as a great way to lift knowledge and confidence. See [DE.U.19.07.16 - 2016 Umpire Development Policy Update](#)

YVHC will assist all its umpires with the HockeyEd costs for level 1 & level 2 umpire training.

Responsible Dog management

There has been an incident involving a child and a restrained dog at the club rooms. It serves as a reminder to control your dog when crowds including children are around as safety of our members and supporters is paramount. Dogs need to be on a leash and supervised when close to the club rooms on match days.

Do enjoy your hockey and the social functions associated with these closing rounds and support Yarra teams into the finals!

Best regards

Craig Lovel
President YVHC