## Forestville Hockey Club 2018

**Junior Reports: Under 18s** 

## **Under 18B Girls**

The Under 18 Girls leapt out of the blocks with all guns blazing and a stunning 9-nil win against Port Adelaide in Round 1. Most of our forwards troubled the scorer that night with goals coming from Zoe, Scout, Casey, Sam, Abbey and Tatijana.

The season saw us finish third at the end of the minor round. Whilst we did win our first final against arch enemy Adelaide we were knocked out in the Preliminary Final against a very strong Adelaide Uni who went on to win the flag. Amber Rose was voted captain by our group and was ably supported by joint Vice Captains Sam and Olivia.

Early in the season we often started matches with 10 players but thanks to Mia, Lucy and Maddie being our more regular fill-ins from the lower grades.

Emma continued to be strong in the goals and we relied upon Zoe to help out in goals when Emma wasn't available.

The strong defence included Georgia, Eugenie and Abbey, and Ulyssia's game developed strongly as the season progressed. Ashley continued this season to be one of our fittest and most mobile midfielders. Impressive hit outs from the defence came from Olivia and Abbey in particular, whilst the midfield was held together and ably marshalled by Amber Rose. Casey, Zoe and Tatijana linked up often with Scout and Sam to create scoring opportunities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching a great group of girls and hopefully we can go all the way next year.

I sincerely thank our Manager Megan Folland for her organisation and contribution to a successful season.

Gary Thomas, coach Under 18 girls.



## **Under 18B Boys**

The Under 18 men had an excellent season with only one loss and one draw in the minor round. The team only had nine goals scored against them, attributed to our strength in defence and precise goal keeping. The defence was bolstered by the addition of the two girls Tayla and Caitlin who well and truly held their own every match. Over the season, the team scored 31 goals, mainly generated through midfield plays to the forward line. The younger forward line improved in their game awareness and readiness to score goals through proper positioning and leading. Their confidence and skills have also improved throughout the year as they adjust to the higher skill level.

The team was happy with an initial win against Seacliff in the first round but then shaken after a draw to Port Adelaide in the second. This made the team realise that in order to win they needed to focus and execute plays during the game rather than just relying on going through the motions. This was evident in the results with high goal margins emerging throughout the season. We fought back over the next few weeks and had a 4 game winning streak before our first loss to North East. It was a close game with neither team able to get the upper hand before NE scored in the second half and we were unable to come back. The rest of the season we did pretty well with a with a 5 game win streak. We very nearly had a second draw to North East in round 14, if it wasn't for Callum scoring his 171<sup>st</sup> goal in the last six seconds (in-joke, check online). Our biggest win of the season was a 5-0 victory over Adelaide Hockey club in round 5.

North East have by far been our greatest rival throughout the season with never more than a single goal difference in each of our games in the minor round. This did change in the semi-finals with a two-nil win to consolidate our position in the grand-final.

With the grand final looming ahead, the team brought a new level of focus to their game.

We went into it knowing it would be a tough game. Playing against NE it was a very close game with neither team able to get the upper hand until Ned scored a goal off a short corner late in the first half. This gave us the momentum to go into the second half fired up and we were able to score from Ned again in a short corner. With an amazing diving save from Tayla from behind the keeper and the keeping ability of Ed we were able to stop them scoring all game. Which means that we WON!!

We ended our season as the premiers of the U18B Competition.

James Coren and James Hutchins, coaches Under 18 Boys.



