



Auckland Finals Day (2019)



The Somerville club celebrated another successful season with the culmination of the Auckland senior competitions on Sunday 25th August.

The Somerville Premier Women had already wrapped up the major Inter-City title the previous weekend, this was a three-peat for the reigning champions. Our Premier men finished a respectable 5th place in their 14 team Inter-City competition, being nudged out of a 3rd place play-off on goal difference.

At LEP Pakuranga on Auckland club finals day Somerville were defending two senior titles and contesting two more.

Premier Reserve Women:

This was the major match of the weekend, the team had finished the season as the League Champions and hoped to go one further by completing the double. All the pressure was on the reigning champions and new coach Andy Wright. Somerville looked tentative in the opening exchanges and the first goal of the game was scored by finalists Howick Pakuranga at the end of the first quarter. This goal sparked a good deal of energy and enterprise by the young Somerville team, but it took until 4 minutes before the end of the 2nd quarter before Rose Parkinson equalised for the "blue and whites".

The 3rd quarter was all Somerville, goals to Izzy Spratt and Amy Pike had the champions looking eagerly toward the final whistle. Howick Pakuranga threw everything into the 4th quarter and scored from a debatable penalty stroke with 4 minutes remaining. However, the ever-reliable Jo Matthews ensured Somerville finished dominating the final minutes.

A memorable match with Jo Matthews, Kaelin Hartog, Rose Parkinson, Isabella Armstrong, Emma Thompson and Jordan Howell all featuring consistently on the day.

Final Score: 3-2 (Parkinson, Spratt, Pike)

Team 2019:

Bella	Armstrong	Charlotte	Meo
Nicola	Connell GK	Tara	Nuzum
Megan	Dalton	Rose	Parkinson
Kaelin	Hartog	Lizzy	Pegg
Meg	Hayward	Amy	Pike
Jordan	Howell	Isabella	Spratt
Emma	Irwin	Emma	Thompson
Pearce	Katie	Monique	Wright
Joanna	Matthews		

Division 1 Women:

The Division 1 women were in the same position as the clubs Premier Reserve Women, League Champions and contesting their 3rd title in as many years.

In the final against old foe's Auckland Masters our Somerville Division women were confident having dominated them all year. However, finals are finals and with so much at stake it was a very nervous Somerville team that began the match. Much like their previous encounters the younger Somerville team eventually got on top and had by far the better of the statistics, dominating both possession and territory. Unfortunately, statistics don't always tell the story of the game and it took until midway through the first half before Somerville were on the scoreboard from a superbly worked penalty corner. The PC injection went to team captain Felicity Pretorius who drew the first runner before passing it across the circle to Meg Petherick, she swept it accurately to a diving, sliding Jaime Lewis coming from the right post. Lewis's deflection over the top of a stranded GK was just reward for an enterprising game by the St Cuthbert's College youngster.

Up 1-0 at half time the vocal Somerville supporters screamed for more but a gritty Auckland Masters team were belligerent in their defence. Although Somerville dominated the final quarter there were a few anxious moments in the dying minutes but nothing that threatened the Somerville goal.

Outstanding on the day were Felicity Pretorius, Rose Bell, Olivia Cox, Rachel Doody and Florence Lin. New coach Andy Muir will be well pleased with the side's rapid improvement after a stuttering start in the first few matches of the season.

Final Score 1-0 (Lewis)

Team 2019:

Shannon	Barlow	Zoe	Lilburne
Rosie	Bell	Florence	Lin
Olivia	Cox	Cartier	Matthews
Rachel	Doody	Kaitlyn	Marais
Briar	Howard	Gemma	McDougall
Macy	Jolly	Meg	Petherick
Yvonne	Kuiper	Felicity	Pretorius
Jamie	Lewis		

Advertisement:

Somerville Senior Club Prize-Giving

Friday 30th August

Sorrento in the Park

Seated at 6.30pm

Division 3 Men:

Our Division 3 men have contested the final of the grade an estimated 5 out of the last 6 years. Saturday's match was another testimony to the consistent efforts of team management and a group of players that regularly attend training and hugely enjoy each others company.

Their opponents every year is a Grammar club team which plays host to a large contingent of former Blacksticks and senior representative players. This group of ex Blacksticks have won this semi-social grade for the last 7 years but have refused to be promoted to the next grade. Unfortunately, Auckland Hockey (the governing authority has also refused to regrade them). Over the years a number of clubs have refused to compete and although sympathising the Somerville D3 men have honoured its obligations to the competition.

Saturday's Division 3 final result was once again not as we would have hoped however the spirit and effort in which the Somerville lads exhibited in the match was of the highest order. As usual the team regulars all performed well with above average contributions on the day from Graham Fish, Tim Stables, Andy Wright, Mark Nairn and Peter Botting. Also worthy of mention were outstanding schoolboys GK Christian Von Mecklenburg and Connor Mcleod.

On a separate note this team resplendent in after-match sports jackets and ties has consistently been nominated for Vogue Magazine's "Best dressed team of the Year" often challenging more reputable teams from other lesser known codes in particular All Blacks, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich.

Division 3 Women (Plate Final)

The Barb Smith coached Division 3 team have enjoyed a memorable season culminating in their trip to Auckland Finals Day.

By defeating Masters 2-0 in an epic Plate final that old adage "the beer tastes better with a win on the final day" could never ring more true.

Club stalwart Jocelyn Murphy scored once again to show the youngsters where the goal is, and along with team members Michelle Knox and Flora Snape controlled much of the game whilst schoolgirls Brooke Thompson and Milly Sceats provided some necessary youthful energy in attack.

Barbara Smith is undoubtedly a piece of the furniture in the ladies side of our club. Despite a week away with surgery Barb has battled the elements every training night to enthuse, improve and upskill a group of ladies in the finer arts of the stick game. Supported by a consistent group of stalwarts around her the clubs D3 ladies can look forward to another good season in 2020.

Final score: 2-0 (Murphy, Sceats)