

## Somerville v Howick Pakuranga (Men)

Saturday 18 July

Somerville began a tough weekend of fixtures with top of the table and an unbeaten Howick Pakuranga, on Saturday at Lloyd Elsmore. The match was tight throughout, with Howick opening the scoring through a Kane Russel drag flick into the keeper's top right. Somerville hit back to make it 1-1 with a drag flick of our own - Ollie Macintyre after a teammate's excellent PC goal line save denied Russel putting Howick 2-0 up. Somerville were commanding on the ball and comfortable in possession.

Howick did take the lead again 2-1 as the game became more open, but once again McIntyre's drag flicking was top class and pulled the game back level. Somerville had chances to pull ahead, but it was Howick who came away 3-2 winners with a very good finish from another one of Howick's Blacksticks.

Final Score: 2-3 (Oliver MacIntyre 2)

Match Report: Ollie Paterson

## Somerville v Hibiscus Dairy Flat (Men)

Sunday 19 July

The second game in the double header weekend saw Somerville looking to the men to answer back from Saturday's loss to Howick.

The game started well for the men inexplicably dressed in blue training bibs, with Blackstick Jacob Smith opening the scoring in the first quarter and silencing critics that said his recent concussion would leave him timid. The bibs continued to control the game through the second quarter, finally breaking through with a smart finish by striker Robbie Stuart, giving Somerville a two-goal buffer at the half.

The second half started as the first finished with Ollie Macintyre scoring another drag flick, taking his tally to 6 for the season and pushing the lead out to three. Now cruising along with a three-goal buffer, the bibbed men decided it would be a good time to practise playing with 10 men so that they would be comfortable should it happen in later matches.

Guy Borren had urgent water crisis matters to discuss with the side-line official.

Big Red, know to some as James Stables, was rightly punished for his inexcusable disregard for the spirit of the game (minor technical incident, committed by someone else, which had no affect on the game whatsoever).

Jacob Smith politely congratulated the ref and requested permission to be excused.

.... And Marshall Wells impressed the crowd with his football skills.

However this tactical move didn't work out exactly as anticipated and quarantine escapee Leon Hayward was required to showcase the goalkeeping skills that earned him the title of "man of the year." HDF managed to claw two goals back but the Somerville men managed to hold on to a 3-2 victory.

The author would like to apologise for any incorrect information in this report, his memory of the game is a little fuzzy due to a knee to the head.

Happy 75th birthday to JW our team manager 😊

Final Score: 3-2 (Jacob Smith, Oliver MacIntyre, Robbie Stuart)

Match Report: Nic Finlayson

## Somerville v Hibiscus Dairy Flat (Women)

Playing at home for the second game of the weekend saw a top of the table clash for the Premier women against the Hibiscus Dairy Flat. Going into the game the team knew that it was going to be tough and we were going to have to put in the hard yards if we wanted to secure the win. From the whistle Somerville came out firing wanting to put a goal away early to really to set the tone for the rest of the game. Rose Tynan, Julia King, Phoebe Steele and my sister Holly played exceptionally well and created plenty of scoring chances for us however, these were unsuccessful due to some solid HDF defending.

The second half saw team captain Belinda Smith take a ball to the head by HDF Blackstick Olivia Merry that ruled out Somerville's stalwart defender for the rest of the game. Without a captain and a defensive player down, the team stepped up and made a collective effort to lead themselves for the rest on the game. The match finished in a goalless draw but both sides could easily have finished with 2 or 3 goals on better finishing days.

It was the most enthralling stalemate match I have ever been witness to and now leaves both teams locked together at the top of the table.

Final Score: 0-0

Match Report: Grace Hilton-Jones