

## Premier Match Reports

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

#### **Premier Men v Roskill Eden**

American Independence Day set the perfect backdrop for a titanic battle between two outstanding Premier Inter-City sides. Both sides were littered with Blacksticks and NHL players both past and present.

Blacksticks squad member Harry Miskimmin made his presence felt on debut for the blue and whites. His all-round skills and smart decision making under pressure gave further impetus to an already strong Somerville midfield. The opening goal of the match came in the first few minutes when Mike Ritchie found himself in space and finished coolly past the advancing Roskill GK. Roskill equalised not long after when Dylan Thomas got the first of his 2 penalty corners. Roskill dominated for long periods at the end of the first quarter but it was the home team that came out firing first in the second quarter and Ollie MacIntyre showed why he is feared at Penalty Corner time when he rifled the first of his two goals past a perplexed Ruan Bezuidenhout in the Roskill goal.

2-1 up at the break and the home crowd were being entertained by some scintillating hockey by both teams. What happened next had the crowd in raptures ... Ollie MacIntyre "Mo", scored his second PC to put Somerville 3-1 ahead then in quick succession Sam Houston finished audaciously over the GK and a minute later "Lil Mickey" Mike Ritchie snapped in his second also from close range. Roskill Eden recovered when Thomas scored his second PC on the final whistle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter but only after he had been repeatedly thwarted by an on fire "PJ" Paul Thomas in goal for Somerville.

Somerville now 5-2 up going into the final quarter repelled repeated Roskill Eden attacks which had pulled the GK during this period. The pressure on Somerville was immense and with 6 minutes to play Joe Hanks got a consolation goal for the visitors with a superb reverse stick shot. However, this was too little too late as the final whistle went and Somerville HC took the scalp of one of the competition front runners in recent years.

This Somerville premier men's team is a side to be considered carefully this season. Having lost skipper Brad Cosgrove and mercurial player/coach Barry Middleton at the end of last year the local lads under the care of new coach Liam Koorey and assistant Simon Towns have welcomed a group of talented individuals. New to the club, Wellington lads and close friends Connor Gilchrest, Oliver MacIntyre and Harry Miskimmin are joined by former Somerville juniors Oliver Paterson, Cam Birchall and Will Stables. Along with its usual core of elite armoury and up and coming young talent it was interesting to note this weekend's result came without its 3 Blacksticks Jake Smith and Dwayne Rowsell (injured) and Leon Hayward (quarantine).

Final Score: 5-3 Somerville

Goal Scorers: (Ritchie 2, McIntyre 2, Houston)

## **Premier Women v Roskill Eden**

The game began an even affair with Roskill setting up an open style of play, utilising high strikers and impressive long passes from defence. Somerville's style focused more on shorter passing across the layers, notably targeting the right-hand side.

Although across general field play the game remained relatively even, the majority of the first half took place in Somerville's attacking half. Somerville on multiple occasions were able to complete shallow transfers through the mid-field to the open side, this pattern of play resulted in the first goal of the match after a great ball across the circle from Rose Tynan for Bre Catley to deflect into the net. The Somerville team spent a fair portion of the second quarter peppering the Roskill net with Georgia Barnett in goal making some sensational saves.

The second goal was scored by Phoebe Steele with a great low flick off a PC into the corner, Somerville 2, Roskill 0. Late in the first half, the Somerville team were reduced to 9 players after Amy Robinson was carded for a body infringement at the same time suffering a knock to the head. Confusion followed regarding her departure from the field and Somerville accidentally replaced her which resulted in Belinda Smith (captain) also receiving a green card. Somerville were able to hold out the Roskill attack and the score remained 2-0 at half time.

Somerville held a higher proportion of possession in the second half. Roskill maintained their style of play and were successful with a handful of long balls reaching high strikers, resulting in some one on one battles at the back with several penalty corners and shots on goal. The Somerville defence managed to hold out the attack and were able to slot another goal away after an amazing reverse stick cross from Julia King for Bre Catley to deflect, for her second of the game.

A competitive game of hockey with Somerville's ability to maintain sustained pressure and possession in their attacking half meant they were convincing victors on the day. The coaching staff Jason Butcher and Hitendra Patel should be pleased with their efforts, Saturday's team featured 4 of the clubs schoolgirl talent, (Arabella Loveridge, Emma Irwin, Grace Hilton-Jones and Abby Lane) all of whom relished the opportunity to showcase their ability.

Final score: 3-0, Somerville

Goal scorers: (Phoebe Steele, Bre Catley 2)

Report: Lucy Talbot