



School Sport Australia Schoolgirls South Africa Hockey Tour 2014

Coach Report

At the National Schoolgirls Championships held in Hobart in August 2013 a team of 16 players was selected to tour South Africa in June/July 2014. The team consisted of eight New South Wales players, five Queensland players, one South Australian player, one Tasmanian player and one Western Australian player. However in May 2014, Kaitlin Nobbs withdrew from the team. Madeline Ratcliffe (Victoria) was approached first to come into the team, however declined due to under 21 Nationals and financial reasons. Maddison Poke (Tasmania) was next approached however after a severe hockey accident scans revealed an ACL tear in her knee, which rendered unavailable. Finally, Rebecca Greiner (Queensland) was approached to come into the team and accepted the position. Thank you must be noted to Vicki Poyser and Craig Victory who assisted with the evaluation of players and final selection rankings.

The touring party consisted of three staff: Rebecca Weiss (Girls Tour Manager), Jane Hurley (Manager) and myself. Brother Paul Creevey was also overall Tour Manager for the touring group.

Role	Name	State
Co-captain	Ainslee Deeth	QLD
Co-captain	Grace Stewart	NSW
	Mikayla Evans	NSW
	Alice Arnott	NSW
	Taylor Collard	WA
	Tiana Barrett	QLD
	Miki Spano	SA
	Ambrosia Malone	QLD
	Andrea Gillard	NSW
	Madeleine Murphy	TAS
	Taylor Thomson	NSW
	Riley Smith	NSW
	Morgan Gallagher	QLD
	Jessica Switzer	QLD
	Danielle McMurray	NSW
	Rebecca Greiner	QLD
Coach	Nicole Geeves	TAS
Tour Manager	Rebecca Weiss	SA
Manager	Jane Hurley	QLD

The format of the tour consisted of educational, cultural, historical, geographical and biological experiences through Cape Town, Eshowe, Hluhluwe National Park, St. Lucia Wetlands, Durban, Howick and Pietermaritzburg. Practice matches and training were conducted in Cape Town at Hartleyvale Hockey Stadium. The three practice matches were played against Western Provincial girl's teams. The 3 Test matches against the South African Under 18 Schoolgirls were played in Durban and Pietermaritzburg and the UKZN Hockey Stadium and Kearsney College.

The results of the matches are as follows:

Game 1 vs. Western Province U16A, Monday 30th June (Cape Town)

Result: 8 – 1 win

Goal Scorers: Ainslee Deeth, Taylor Collard 4, Mikayla Evans, Andrea Gillard, Alice Arnott

Best Players: Taylor Collard, Grace Stewart, and Andrea Gillard

The game provided an opportunity for the girls to stretch their legs after long travels and establish a playing benchmark for the group to work upon. The Australian girls had the majority of the play during the course of the game and established strong ball movement and goal scoring opportunities. However, thirteen penalty corner attack opportunities with small return was an area of focus for future success in games. Further areas of focus include composure in passing, movement of the ball and when leading, ball tempo and clinical structure in attacking circles.



Game 2 vs. Western Province U18 North, Tuesday 1st July (Cape Town)

Result: 19 – 0 win

Goal Scorers: Tiana Barrett, Miki Spano 5, Grace Stewart 4, Madeleine Murphy 2, Mikayla Evans 2, Alice Arnott 2, Andrea Gillard, Taylor Collard, and Ambrosia Malone.

Best Players: Miki Spano, Grace Stewart, Madeleine Murphy and Taylor Thomson

The Australian girls showed improvement in the areas of focus from the previous game played. Ball movement was accomplished at a higher intensity, strong playing structure and versatility of players, along with more decisiveness inside the attacking circle lead to greater field goal opportunities and conversion. Penalty corner attack was nineteen for this game with minor rate of success. Focus areas that came from the game included patience from midfield pushing forward into attack, continual understanding of the playing structure (two attacking and two defensive midfielders), penalty corner attack conversion, defensive man-to-man marking and identifying simple passing options.



Game 3 vs. Western Province U18 North, Wednesday 2nd July (Cape Town)

Result: 10 – 0 win

Goal Scorers: Andrea Gillard, Taylor Collard 2, Mikayla Evans 3, Ambrosia Malone 2, and Grace Stewart 2

Best Players: Morgan Gallagher, Rebecca Greiner, Riley Smith and Ambrosia Malone

The team showed continual improvement in this game and were clinical in executing the game plan and playing structure. The girls were thorough in their goal scoring conversion and disciplined in gaining outcomes when moving the ball forward. Game areas of focus following this game included precision in passing, recognition of when to pass vs. run and defensive cover defence responsibilities. Penalty corner attack continued to be an area of concern with fourteen penalty corners for, with one converted.



Game 4 vs. Maritzburg College Club Side, Monday 7th July (Pietermaritzburg)

Result: 11 – 0 win

Goal Scorers: Riley Smith, Tiana Barrett, Miki Spano 2, Ambrosia Malone, Ainslee Deeth, Mikayla Evans 3, Grace Stewart, and Alice Arnott

Best Players: Ambrosia Malone, Tiana Barrett, Grace Stewart, and Alice Arnott

It was expected that this game would be of a higher competitive standard. The team were clinical in defence and did not provide the opposition the opportunity to enter the defensive 23 area. The game provided the defensive group the continual opportunity to work on strategical plays. The attacking group demonstrated greater playing structure and execution on the attacking circle. Twelve penalty corner attacks was achieved for three goals converted, so although still disappointing statistical it was pleasing to observe greater success. Areas of focus from this game were marking position, attackers movement patterns and alertness, ball intensity and quick response in rebounds on penalty corner attack.



It was disappointing the quality of practice match teams as it did not place the Australian girls team in a competitive position coming into the three test matches and be prepared to face a more disciplined and structure team. This left the team feeling apprehensive about the quality and competition of the South African under 18 Schoolgirls team. Nevertheless, praise needs to be given to the playing group for their maturity and mental preparation for the three test matches.

Game 5: First Test vs. South African U18 Schoolgirls, Tuesday 8th July (Pietermaritzburg)

Result: 4 – 0 win (3 field goals, 1 penalty stroke)

Goal Scorers: Riley Smith 2, Grace Stewart, and Tiana Barrett

Best Players: Taylor Thomson, Grace Stewart, Riley Smith and Mikayla Evans

The challenge for the team from the outset was to step up the intensity in all facets of the game and ensure that they are prepared to be competitive from the start of the game. The other challenge was the temperature, as the low temperatures are not accustomed in the area for some time and the girls had not experienced this cold to date. The girls started sharp and moved the ball with purpose and disciplined. The team had a number goal scoring opportunities early, however were unable to convert. Riley Smith opened the goal scoring tally and this gave the team an extra lift and it was evident that the intensity and purpose of the game increased. South Africa then rallied and again control of the ball and look strong moving into attack, however defensively the team showed strength, composure and discipline through the guidance of Jessica Switzer in the net. The team

gained the upper hand with a well-executed run from Grace Stewart who was rewarded with a penalty stroke and a goal for her effort.

South Africa came out hard in the second half and showed more aggression and discipline in moving the ball into attack. The team held strong and showed strong passages of play. Riley Smith converted another field goal and Tiana Barrett capped off the game with a goal to see the girls win 4-0 and head into the second test with greater confidence and knowledge that they can be competitive. Focus areas that came out of the game were disciplined in passing, being controlled when under pressure, pressing structure and execution of penalty corner attack (twelve penalty corners for, with no conversion).

Game 6: Second Test vs. South African U18 Schoolgirls, Wednesday 9th July (Durban)

Result: 3 – 2 win

Goal Scorers: Rebecca Greiner, Miki Spano, and Ambrosia Malone

Best Players: Ambrosia Malone, Taylor Thomson, Rebecca Greiner and Andrea Gillard

It was evident that South Africa had done their homework on the structure that we had played the night before and through this research they exploited the attacking nature of the team playing structure by throwing more aerial balls, which caught our defensive group on the back foot. The team started flat and were trying to catch up for the whole first half, with South Africa having the upper hand and looking for sharp and clinical on and off the off. South Africa were awarded a penalty corner and converted through a well executed drag flick. This saw South Africa head into the break 1-0 up and confident that they can equalise the test series at 1-1. The girls were critical on their evaluation of the first half and more determined to step up and start to execute the game plan.

The team started the second half off strong with the defensive group being more disciplined in their marking position and midfield running hard on and off the ball to support players in attack. Solid pressure by the strikers and hard running by all players provided the opportunity for Rebecca Greiner to open the Australian scoring attack. The team stepped up their pressing aggression and Miki Spano was rewarded with a clinical field goal. Ambrosia Malone scored the final goal with an impressive run into the attacking circle. South Africa scored late in the game with 3-minutes remaining and increased the tempo and pressure, which left the remaining three minutes of the game intense and nervous. The girls held their own with much determination from South Africa and finished the match victors. This result sealed the test match series for the team, which was exiting for the group and well deserved for the persistence and hard work.

Game 7: Third Test vs. South African U18 Schoolgirls, Thursday 10th July (Pietermaritzburg)

Result: 5 – 1 win

Goal Scorers: Miki Spano 2, Grace Stewart, and Andrea Gillard

Best Players: Andrea Gillard, Miki Spano, Ainslee Deeth, and Grace Stewart

The team were dominant in the first half and their ball intensity and purpose on and off the ball was excellent. The showed focused and precision in executing the game plan and were rewarded with goals early in the game. South Africa was persistent in the first half and scored to take the game to 3-1 at half time. The Australian girls came out strong in the second half and the ball movement and higher fitness levels were a standout and it was evident that the South African team did not the capacity to maintain the standard the team was playing at. The team scored another two goals to see the final scoreline at 5-1 win and the Australian girls claiming a 3-0 win of the test series. Areas of focus that arose from the game were defensive marking and mindful of clean eliminations, maintain possession of the ball, presenting position when looking to receive the ball and ball intensity.



At the conclusion of each game the playing group were asked to vote on the Most Valuable Player. These votes were calculated at the conclusion of all seven games. Congratulation goes to Grace Stewart. She had an outstanding playing tour, her leadership, maturity and skill level was of the highest standard and set the benchmark for her fellow team members.



School Sport Australia Schoolboys South Africa Hockey Tour 2014 Coach Report

At the National Schoolboy Championships held in Hobart in August 2013 a team of 16 players was selected to tour South Africa in June/July 2014. At these National Championships a change was approved to rule 6.2.2 to increase the number of players selected in the Australian team from 16 to 18, to match what is the current norm at most international events. This was not in time to allow us to pick 18 players for this tour. South African Hockey wanted to play 18 players, and although we wanted to, School Sport Australia would not approve the change to the already submitted tour application, despite repeated issues (injuries or sickness encountered during the tour) on previous tours and previous (2008, 2011 & 2012) requests to take additional players being accepted, requests for this tour were not accepted.

The touring party consisted of three staff: Brother Paul Creevey (Tour Manager), Scott Smith (Assistant Coach/Team Manager) and myself.

One student Timothy Brand from NSW, was withdrawn from the touring

team with a significant injury in late April and replaced with a shadow squad member (Linden McCarthy). The team was made up of seven players from New South Wales and three players each from Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Role	Name	State	School
Tour Manager	Br. Paul Creevey	QLD	St. Theresa's Catholic Colleg
Ass Coach/Team Manager	Scott Smith	NSW	Grafton High School
Coach	Andrew Mellor	WA	Como Secondary College
Captain	Douglas Buckley	QLD	The Cathedral College
Vice-Captain	Danny Fletcher	QLD	Padua College
Leadership Group	Joshua Mayo	NSW	Kiama High School
	Adam Battams	QLD	Padua College
	Linden McCarthy	Tasmania	Burnie High School
	Benji Austin	Tasmania	The Friends' School
	Rhiley Carr	NSW	St. Edwards College
	Isaac Farmilo	NSW	McCarthy Catholic College
	Oliver Flack	NSW	Concord High School
	Ryan Jones	Tasmania	The Hutchins School
	Joseph Kenny	WA	Aquinas College
	Jason Lockett	WA	Como Secondary College

Kurt Lovett	NSW	Red bend Catholic College
Bailey Powell	NSW	St. John's College, Woodlaw
Kieren Richards	NSW	Edmund Rice College
Matthew Tate	WA	Aquinas College

The itinerary consisted of educational, cultural, historical, geographical and biological experiences through Cape Town and its surrounds, Eshowe, Hluhluwe National Park, St. Lucia Wetlands, Durban, Howick and Pietermaritzburg with warm up matches and training in Cape Town, warm up match and training in Durban and then 3 Test matches against the South African Under 18 Schoolboys in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.



The results of the matches are as follows:

Game 1 vs. Western Province Proteas, Monday 30th June (Cape Town)

Won 5-0 Goal Scorers: Isaac Farmilo 2, Benji Austin, Doug Buckley, Kurt Lovett
 Players Player: Oliver Flack Best Players: Oliver Flack, Danny Fletcher, Bailey Powell

A good hit out against a somewhat weak opposition, solid defensively but considering we had close to 50 circle penetrations and only scored 5 goals, gave us a starting point to work from. The match was filmed and then coded which allowed us valuable feedback to the group and some individuals.

Game 2 vs. Western Province Zebras, Tuesday 1st July (Cape Town)

Won 11-1 Goal Scorers: Isaac Farmilo 6, Danny Fletcher, Kurt Lovett, Josh Mayo, Linden McCarthy, Bailey Powell Players Player: Isaac Farmilo. Best Players: Kieren Richards, Danny Fletcher, Isaac Farmilo.

The team showed better teamwork and responded well to feedback with a better performance and as a result goals were more easily found. Once again the match was filmed and coded for group and individual feedback. This feedback highlighted the group where improvements had been made, and areas for further improvement.

Game 3 vs. Western Province Disas, Wednesday 2nd July (Cape Town)

Won 9-1 Goal Scorers: Isaac Farmilo 3, Doug Buckley 2, Rhiley Carr, Oliver Flack, Kurt Lovett, Linden McCarthy Players Player: Adam Battams Best Players: Adam Battams, Jason Lockett, Doug Buckley

Our opposition were missing their Goalkeeper, which allowed us the opportunity to play each of our GK's a half for the opposition, which seeing as we had hardly been tested proved a success, with both playing exceptionally well. The team continued to show improved structure and development.

Game 4 vs. Kearsney College Club Side (Durban)

Won 4-3 Goal Scorers: Isaac Farmilo, Danny Fletcher, Kurt Lovett, Linden McCarthy Players Player: Joseph Kenny Best Players: Joseph Kenny, Jason Lockett, Rhiley Carr

Played in temperatures not accustomed to this area this time of year, approximately 3°C (average temp rang in July is 23°C -12°C). Our first real test, against a side that was made up predominantly of men and had ex-South African Internationals playing in it. We played this match without our Captain, who had come down with the flu. During the match Joshua Mayo also felt ill (he had had nausea 2 days prior) and did not continue to play. We played some good hockey, and led 4-1 with 3 minutes to play, however conceded 2 late goals due to tiredness.

Game 5 First Test vs. South African U18 Schoolboys (Pietermaritzburg)

Won 4-1 (Halftime 1-0) Goal Scorers: Oliver Flack, Isaac Farmilo, Linden McCarthy, Benji Austin Players Player: Jason Lockett Best Players: Joseph Kenny, Jason Lockett, Danny Fletcher

Once again played in temperatures not accustomed to this area this time of year, approximately 2°C (average temp rang in July is 20°C -6°C). The team

took some time to find their way into the game, with South Africa having several clear opportunities early with only some good goalkeeping thwarting them. The umpires were strict on all things discipline related which took the players a while to adjust to. Once the team settled into the match, and played with the structure and direction that had been given to them they controlled the pace of the match and created better opportunities. It was an excellent standard of hockey and the score line does not reflect the evenness of the entire match.

Game 6 Second Test vs. South African U18 Schoolboys (Durban)

Lost 2-3 (Halftime 0-1) Goal Scorers: Isaac Farmilo, Kurt Lovett Players Player: Douglas Buckley Best Players: Douglas Buckley, Kurt Lovett, Matt Tate.

The match was umpired in a very poor manner, with a perceived bias towards the South African players. The team worked well but missed a couple of clear chances. Adam Battams was injured near the end of the first half and did not play again. The opening minutes showed the true potential of our team as we put in 2 early goals to take the lead. Unfortunately a poor referring decision awarded South Africa a penalty corner and they equalised. In the dying stages of the match we won what both officials believed to be a penalty corner, before they then conferred with each other and somehow reversed the decision, and instead of playing a bully gave South Africa a free hit. The South African then went the length of the field and were awarded a penalty corner in what I can only describe as an extremely poor umpiring decision or blatant cheating. South Africa scored from this penalty corner after the final siren to win the match. Needless to say relations between the players were strained, and between our staff and the Technical Director and the Umpires manager. A meeting was called for the next day. The South African Coach approached us after the match to apologise for what he believed to be an injustice and many of the crowd and other officials stressed their sympathy at the situation.

Game 7 Third Test vs. South African U18 Schoolboys (Durban)

Won 3-1 Goal Scorers: Rhiley Carr 2, Linden McCarthy Players Player: Jason Lockett Best Players: Jason Lockett, Rhiley Carr, Doug Buckley

Joseph Kenny played less than 10 minutes in this match having been sick all the night before with what we can only assume was some sort of gastro. Adam Battams did not play in this match, having injured the rotator cuff in his right shoulder in the previous match. This match was a very tense affair following the closing scenes of last night's match. The meeting held earlier in the day between The Technical Director, Umpires Manager and our staff did

not seem to have gone so well. However the match was umpired in a much better way, and as a result there were no major cards issued. After taking the lead with 4 seconds left in the first half there were a few nervous moments through the second half. Some outstanding goalkeeping from Jason Lockett saved the day on several occasions. South Africa eventually equalised, before we won a penalty corner and Rhiley Carr duly converted. With time running out we looked to control the tempo of the game and amazingly scored again with about 20 seconds left on the clock!

