



HILTON COLLEGE

View from the Dugout

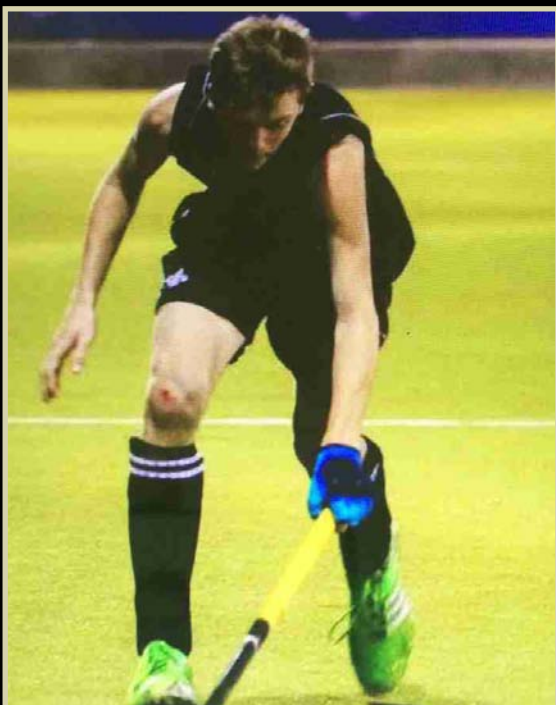
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This past weekend's sport followed a week's worth of winter sport preparations. Saturday proved to be a great opportunity for our boys to get match practice and training before the season starts. Our 1st and A hockey squads played matches against Maritzburg College, St.Charles and Michaelhouse whilst all other teams played internal trial matches. The rugby club was put through their paces in the morning by top professional coaches who trained each team in the key aspects of the game. This was the third occasion that we have run this camp and our boys are incredibly lucky to have such invaluable inputs from these knowledgeable coaches. In the afternoon many of our rugby teams went on to play matches. Some of these fixtures were against external opposition whilst others were internal games.

All-in-all the opportunity to get match experience, 'score free', was an invaluable for our teams. I was particularly pleased with the fitness levels of our 1st team squads and I enjoyed watching some excellent play.

As I watched the hive of activity on all of our fields on Saturday, I reflected on the unsung heroes of our sport programme, the Hilton College staff. Having just completed a busy summer season, our personnel, most of whom are also teachers and tutors and housemasters, have had to change gear (literally) and hit the ground running with a new season, new teams and new players. This requires a huge amount of dedication, energy and, very often, a significant amount of overtime! We have excellent staff all of whom go beyond the call of duty to achieve our vision of growing exceptional young men - and I regard it a privilege to work with them.



This coming weekend we play rugby against DHS and hockey against Glenwood. As DHS are hosting the rugby fixture they have requested that the 1st XV play the curtain raiser match for the Sharks at 17:00. This will be a first for Hilton College and a wonderful opportunity for our boys. Most other rugby fixtures will be played at DHS with the remainder being played at Home. From a hockey point of view, 6 fixtures will be played at Glenwood and the remainder at Home. Naturally, it would be a great advert for Hilton College to have our boys en masse at Kingspark so we are encouraging as many boys as possible to come to the stadium once they have played their games. After the 1st XV match boys will be allowed to stay for the Sharks game which starts at 19:30.

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Please will parents note that, in order for this to be a successful outing for our boys, the following arrangements will apply:

- 1) All rugby players that are not on leave are expected to attend the 1st XV match.
- 2) It is not compulsory for our hockey players to watch the rugby, however, spectator busses will be provided from Hilton (Rugby and Hockey) and from Glenwood (Hockey) to Kingspark.
- 3) Boys may return to school directly after the 1st XV match.
- 4) Boys on leave may depart from their match venues with their parents, however, those on leave who wish to attend the rugby **MUST** be in number 1s for the duration of their time at Kingspark and must seated with the school.
- 5) No boy, whether on leave or not, may be at the stadium in civvies.
- 6) Admission to the stadium is free for our boys.
- 7) All boys will be provided with meals.

The KZN Rugby Union will also be providing us with a limited number of free tickets (120) for parents. If you would like a ticket please will you kindly contact Matt Fairweather (mkf@hiltoncollege.com). This will be on a first come first served basis.

Three of our boys, Christian Deare, James Wood and Nicholas Tillim, are representing the KZN U18A team at the Currie Cup Water Polo tournament which is taking place in Stellenbosch this coming weekend. We wish them all the best for this prestigious competition.

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In closing, I would like to thank our parent support body, the *Ballies*, for their very generous donation of new gym equipment for the Crew's Centre. As a result of their kind benefaction we have been able to convert what was an outdated and cluttered exercise facility into a more functional space. The equipment, which was handpicked to achieve our aims in sport science, is also of an excellent quality and will serve this facility well into the future. We are most excited that we now have a gym that provides us with the scope to train our boys in the most up-to-date exercise routines.

Hilton College is a community that relies on the collective and varied contributions of all of our stakeholders. The work of the *Ballies*, in support of our sport programme, is incredibly valued and this project is another example of the massive and immediate impact they are having. Their work is an excellent avenue for parents to make a contribution to our school and we encourage folks to get involved with their initiatives.

We are looking forward to their next *Ballies Bus* trip and their future fundraising endeavours in which we can partner with them to establish Hilton College as the best school in the country, comparable with the best in the world.

Yours in sport,

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Tony Shuttleworth
Executive Director - Sport