

Match Report for 2nd October

Woking Hurricanes v Richmond Panthers

It was a momentous day yesterday in Woking, it was the hottest October day on record, George Osborne fixed council tax for another year and Woking Hurricanes won a League match – well done girls.

The day started early (thanks Sally) with all the girls arriving early for a pre-match tactical talk by Rupert setting out what was expected of them, all falling on deaf ears I thought only to be proved wrong some 2 hours later with a very satisfactory 3-0 win with goals from Ellie Foster, Zoe Carter and yes Bethan Mellor scoring her first goal for the Hurricanes – very well done Bethan.

The girls started in temperatures approaching what felt like the mid 80's F or about 30C to those parents under 40 which probably isn't too many – plenty of water was taken on board and it showed as our girls started with great passion and speed (despite the fact Rupert told them to hang on to the ball and work it forward).

Initially most of our attacks were going down the centre like last year with Titch & Tara running their legs off but also using their heads to hold up play whilst the rest of the team caught up, time and gain the ball was passed right to be fed back in to an attacking position within the D for a shot on goal of which there were numerous – a big improvement on last year on the shot count. Our first goal came in the first 1st period of the match with a well worked run by Lara down the right wing with a neat pass threaded through opposition legs to Zoe who in turn passed to Ellie for her to sweep the ball hard in to the opposition goal much to the delight of the supporters on the touch line.

Our second goal in the 2nd period came from that well worked routine the short corner which last year would have fizzled out to nothing but a knock about in the D (a bit like a pin ball machine) but on this occasion the corner taken well and hard by Lara resulted in Zoe receiving the ball outside the D, making a couple of one-two passes and a shot on goal which hit the back board with a resounding thump 2-0 up and the crown goes wild.

After we had scored that very important second goal our control of the match became evident with some very confident stick play by Kitty & Elsa working the ball forward with ease playing some neat passes with Ellie and Tara forcing the ball time and again in to the D for a chance to score. Initially with Rupert wanting the play down the right wing our left wing Phoebe was looking a little left out but soon all she had been taught came to play and she moved slightly to left inner which freed up Tara to assist Ellie and Kitty down the middle of the pitch.

Our third and final goal was text book stuff and just goes to prove that despite appearances the girls do listen to Rupert and they do take most of it in.

Our wing play down the right mainly (as Rupert told them to) was impressive and lead to some great overlapping play between Lucy & Lara ably assisted by Titch with Lara crossing the ball from wide out on the wing across the D for Bethan to sweep in to score the third final goal.

Finally but of no less importance were our 2 solid and reliable defenders Ella and Lottie and our sensational goal keeper Tamsin who really does look as if she knows what shes doing. Both Ella and Lottie (playing the see saw routine) with one up and one back when we were attacking were as solid as we have come to expect of them with very few opportunities for Richmond Panthers to even get in our D and when they did solid stick work saved the day. The defending at short corners was also a big improvement this year. However without three particularly impressive saves and kick outs by Tamin the result may have been very different.