

## **Match Report – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Girls Under 12 League**

#### **Woking Tornadoes 1 Epsom 0**

First many thanks to Mike Allcock and Steve MacDonald for umpiring today – especially Steve who rushed straight from the golf course when he heard we had been left short.

Secondly thanks to Millie and Catie for turning out for us today with a number of our regulars unavailable - they both put in great performances - even though they were both playing out of their normal positions.

Woking ended their league campaign with a victory to extend their winning margin even further at the top of the table. Woking Tornadoes have scored 35 goals in the league and conceded only 4 over our 8 matches- testament not only to our attacking prowess but also our mean defence!

There are occasions when the score line doesn't tell the whole story and this was one such match. I know some of the girls were a little disappointed at the end of the game but in reality we came up against a side with a keeper in inspired form and who had decided to park their bus in front of their goal ..... I don't recall them ever making it as far as our 25 yard line and Harriet Sharp had to be woken up at the end of game!

The first third saw Woking dominate possession without creating too many clear cut chances, the best falling to Megan Mackacy who cracked a superb effort from the edge of the D that the Epsom keeper did well to turn around the post. Ellie Moore had a superb match throughout in midfield winning countless tackles and showing excellent thought of mind in her distribution. Catie Williamson and Millie Rathbone also caught the eye and no-one would guess that they were not experienced defenders as they prevented Epsom from mounting any meaningful attacks whilst building well from the back. If anything the play drifted a little too much to the left whilst a quick switch to the right would have exposed the opposition but nevertheless this was an assured Woking performance.

The second third was undoubtedly Woking's best as Epsom were left chasing shadows. Nicole Chapman Hatchet was a pillar of strength battling hard in midfield whilst Katie More showed a deft touch that saw her seemingly waltz around Epsom at will. Woking finally made the breakthrough their dominance deserved - even if the goal was a little scrappy compared to some of the approach play. Laila Richards forced the Epsom keeper into a save but Lucie Shortland was on hand to bundle the rebound over the line. It was no more that Woking deserved as they hit a real purple patch. Chapman-Hatchet ended a mazy dribble with a fizzing shot that went just wide of the post and then Richards was denied once more by the Epsom keeper. There was some excellent movement and

passing from the Woking girls as they put into practice some of the exercises we have been concentrating on over the past couple of weeks. Hannah Birchall was highly effective as she linked up the play and only the brilliance of the Epsom keeper prevented Woking from a hatful of goals.

We lost our shape slightly in the final third of the match but this was not helped by Epsom pulling all of their players back into their own 25 for most of the period which caused a lot of congestion as Woking piled on the pressure. Katie MacDonald had a couple of well taken short corners well saved and Mackay was unlucky when her well struck effort was accidentally stopped by an Epsom foot. Moor was again denied by the brilliance of the keeper and Maddie Marsden nearly capped an impressive performance in a more advanced position when she neatly flicked a late effort at goal but there was to be no way past the Epsom keeper for a deserved second goal.

Ignoring the score line and our inability to turn our dominance into goals, there were plenty of positives to take from this match. There were some excellent passing moves, particularly in the second period, where the team were really worked well together. Lyn Kirby who sits on the ladies selection panel watched the first part of this match and was highly impressed with the talent on display.....the captain of the ladies 2A's team also commented that she can't wait for you all to become old enough to play in the ladies teams on a Saturday!

Well done to everyone - you have performed well throughout this league campaign and are deserved winners of the league - it all gets a bit more serious from here on in with the Surrey 7 a sides, Home Counties finals (still no date on this) and then, for those of you that are coming, what will be a real test of our ability in the Netherlands in May - however you are a superb squad of players who work hard for each other and I am confident that we can really enjoy the rest of the season.