

Match Report – Sunday 7th November

Girls Under 14 Home Counties League

Surbiton 0 Woking 5

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A full squad turned out for this match (many thanks all) against our nearby and earnest rivals, Surbiton...with the exception of a goalie so many thanks to David Faulkner (BU12), who stood in at the last minute.

The first half started in the same way that bonfire night finished; a flurry of Woking fireworks in the Surbiton D. The first 10 minutes saw Woking in the Surbiton D and half, most of the time with many shots on or near goal, but for an excellent Surbiton goalie the result would have been far more severe. Eventually the sustained pressure led to a long corner and a fierce drive from Charlotte that left everybody standing and put Woking 1 up. This really set the scene. The forwards, Olivia, Holly and Dominique ably supported by Charlotte and Georgia in midfield consistently ran into the Surbiton D and with a mixture of good individual skill and excellent passing kept the Surbiton defence flustered and unable to settle. Inevitably one of the plays led to a short corner after 15 minutes where a lovely pass from Dominique allowed Olivia to deftly place the ball in the goal. The pressure again forced another short corner after 20 minutes and after a cracking initial shot on goal by Dominique and a poor clearance by the goalie led to 2 quick shots the second of which from Charlotte made its way past a seething mass of defenders into the goal. Occasional breaks from Surbiton gave rise to a few moments of concern and a couple of short corners, but in general the defence of Megan, Brigitta, Sophie, Robyn and Katie was very solid and a lovely save late in the first half by David kept the score line clean.

A feature of the Woking game was the way both midfield and defence continually attacked the game, pushing forward and contesting almost every ball and pushing the ball to the forwards, if the ball did escape from the Surbiton 25 it was soon intercepted and moved back up field again. Key here were the tackles and runs by both Zoe and Ella in the midfield, neither of whom gave up any ball willingly. The standard of passing was very good on the whole as were the interceptions by the defence who continually harried the Surbiton forwards.

Although Surbiton had seemed a little more confident at the end of the first half Woking came out very strongly and with intent and this led to a lovely quick (deflected) goal after only 2 minutes as Surbiton suffered a sustained barrage of tackling and shots on goal. To their credit Surbiton did not give up and for the early part of the second half they attacked well. However, the defence worked well as a team and time and again recovered the play and with good passing swung the game back

into the Surbiton half. It is difficult to single out specific plays since the forward line continually ran at, and beat the Surbiton defence, which led to many excellent attempts on goal. With that in mind, 15 minutes from the end saw Woking score their 5th goal courtesy of Dominique, who fully deserved to get her name on the score sheet.

It was an excellent result for Woking and a great example of teamwork, with all participants, whether defence, midfield or attack passing, tackling and having an obvious determination to win. The amount of play Woking had and the chances created are a great sign for the future. Scorers: Charlotte Daly 3; Olivia Camsey 1 and Dominique Yeo 1