

Match Report - Sunday 10th October

Girls Under 12 Friendly

Woking Tornadoes 1 Guildford 2

The Tornadoes huffed and puffed but were ultimately unable to blow away a well organised Guildford side in the colts first match on the new pitch. After several close encounters between the two sides in 7 a-side competition last season and with both of us having run Surbiton close in the county and regional finals, a high standard of U12 hockey was to be expected and neither team disappointed with some expansive and skilled hockey on display.

Whilst a win would have been the icing on the cake, Woking can take great heart from an encouraging display which saw them dominate large passages of play. Playing 3 periods of 20 minutes, the first third in particular saw sustained Woking pressure with Guildford hardly venturing out of their own half. Woking had discussed a set play from the initial push-back and Maddie Marsden, Jozie Rooman-Downs, Nicole Chapman-Hatchett and Abi Lord duly executed the pre-determined move to perfection (with the exception of putting the ball into the back of the net at the end of the move). Having caught Guildford cold, Woking continued to press forward throughout the first third, with Alice Boneham and Katie Moore looking particularly strong in midfield alongside the industrious Rooman-Downes and Chapman-Hatchett. Lucie Shortland, Katie McDonald and Ann-Marie Muus formed an impenetrable barrier on the half way line as Woking had all of the pressure.

It was an impressive start to the match with Lord, Marsden and birthday girl Floorje Hosman causing continuous problems for the Guildford defence and winning a number of short corners which (considering how little time we have had to practice them) were all well executed and with just a little more luck and a keeper in slightly less form would almost certainly have yielded more success.

With the weather matching the heat of Woking's pressure, Ellie Moore and Ella Fowden entered the fray and their fresh legs added new impetus to Woking's dominance although we remained unable to find that elusive goal.

The second third was a far more even affair with Guildford finally mounting some attacks of their own. Harriet Sharp made a good diving save to deny Guildford from a short corner whilst Woking continued to carve out chances of their own. Then, against the run of play, disaster as Woking failed to clear from a 16 and Guildford cooley slotted into the corner to take the lead.

The final third saw large periods of Woking dominance again, playing some neat passing hockey against a resolute Guildford defence but time and again their keeper was found to be in commanding form. Despite Woking's pressure Guildford played an effective counter attacking style and carved out a half chance that was very well dispatched into the roof of the net by the Guildford forward to extend their lead, Undeterred Woking battled back and with five minutes to go, Rooman-Downs finally buried one of Woking's chances to bring them back into the match. Unfortunately despite sustained pressure over the final minutes the girls were unable to force the equaliser that they undoubtedly deserved.

A disappointing result perhaps but nevertheless this was a very encouraging all-round performance from Woking. This was only a friendly and I am confident we will show further improvement before the league games start. Guildford are keen to play us again as well, so hopefully we can reverse the result in a re-match!

Special thanks to Callum Mackay who made an excellent effort in umpiring his first match and to Ashley Carter and Rupert Fowden who stepped in to umpire for Guildford

when their own umpire didn't show. Also a special mention for Ella Fowden who stepped in from the Woking Hurricanes and proved very able to cope at this level.