

Match Report – Sunday 13th March
Girls Under 12 Friendly
Surbiton Finches 4 Woking Whirlwinds 1

A reshaped (with Hurricane 'ringers') and under strength Whirlwinds (due to illness) played some of their best team hockey of the season building on the recent success with Wayfarers. Alas, it took it a little too long to get used to each others ways, leading to 2 breakaway goals in the first third of the match and a shocking defensive short corner to yield a third. Despite these mishaps the girls were holding their own and more in terms of possession, territory and shooting chances as well as keeping their spirits up.

Building from this low base, everyone kept playing a simple game of tackling hard, passing into space and going wide, whilst some strong individual performances helping to gel things together. Second third was full of opportunity for Whirlwinds and only the Surbiton keeper (and perhaps the fact we had a rotating Surbiton girl at centre forward!) keeping us from a bucket load of goals, many on the back of some super moves from midfield, wide right and then across the P spot. Some very mature play (eg hit onto opposition's feet!) saw us pickup quite a few short corners, which we are becoming pretty consistent on getting a good shot on goal from, though the Macy Special hit the side board this time!

The gigantic efforts were starting to bite home in the last third, and Kitty Raphael finally bagged a goal in a one on one to the left of the keeper. Unfortunately the concentration immediately dipped and Whirlwinds missed about 6 chances to stop the Surbiton response, but were caught napping.

I am increasingly worried we have something holding back growth in our U12 girls in Woking when I look at some of the giants we come up against each week.....

Some comments on our Top 10:

Phoebe - Super stuff and a chip off the old block! Never easy when defence leaves you one on one too many times. Come again!

Emily A - Seemed to be daydreaming until the ball was 5-10m away and then was a solid rock in defence, great tackling and defensive play.

Amy - Strong tackling throughout and some of her trademark free hits too, good effort.

Macy - Worked and worked and worked, always doing something sensible with the ball. Very well done.

Hannah - Best game of the season, controlled the midfield well, acting as pivot for passing/hitting and ran her socks off end to end. Muy bien!

Lucy - Kept battling throughout, in what was a slightly defensive role but showed flashes of attacking flair where possible. Thanks for the help!

Tabitha - Linked well with midfield and drove us forward throughout, starting to really shine with these crosses into the danger zone. Superstar!

Kitty - Tenacious throughout, even when up against 2 giants. Great composure when in the D and only their goalie stopped a hat trick! Dank u!

Iola - Starved of ball throughout, as we played on our strong side (for a change!), made good work of the scraps that came her way. Well done. Issy A - Great runs down the right, and linking with Macy/Tabitha and always in space for the pass wide.

We've got to start cracking the hitting of the ball consistently, or the girls will struggle in the years ahead. If you can encourage them to practice against a wall/fence etc with a tennis ball or similar it might help.....

Many thanks to Bill who made the trip to umpire despite Helena going ill, and did a great job. You're hired!