

Match Report - Sunday 18th October

Girls Under 16 Home Counties League

Woking 1 Surbiton 4

Woking's U16 girls face a tough task to qualify for the final stages of the Home Counties competition after losing out to group favourites Surbiton - but not before giving their visitors a real scare in an action packed match.

Whilst Surbiton applied the early pressure they were unable to break down a well disciplined Woking defence with Katie Davidson putting in a commanding performance at the back. Woking were employing a counter attacking style and when Kirsty Lazer took a quick free hit from just inside the Surbiton half she released Sophie Totman to coolly slot home and give Woking the lead.

Surbiton tried hard to get themselves back into the match but Katie Colwil pulled off two reflex saves in the Woking goal to keep them out. With Georgia Lord, Lazer and Pheobe Bryant working hard in the Woking midfield it was not all one way traffic and when Georgina Bernard was found with a long through ball the Woking forward hit the ball narrowly wide from the edge of the D.

Surbiton forged forward again creating an excellent chance from a short corner that was again well saved by Colwil and though Surbiton picked up the rebound, Emma Sharp was on hand to clear the ball off the line and away to safety. The pace of the game was very fast with some high quality play from Surbiton forcing another breakaway chance but Rachel Cullum plucked the ball from the end of their forwards stick with a last ditch tackle as they were poised to shoot.

It was looking as if Woking's were unbreachable until a little piece of Surbiton magic finally unlocked their defence to score a high quality equaliser. With their tails raised Surbiton turned up the heat further but Colwil pulled off another high quality save and Davidson timed a tackle perfectly when one on one with a Surbiton forward. It looked as if the scores would be tied going into half time but a late short corner was well worked by Surbiton to edge them ahead at the break.

With several of the Woking girls carrying injuries and illnesses the relentless pace was beginning to take it's toll and although Maddie Fletcher, Lucy Collier and Clare Aldrich were all causing problems for the Surbiton defence, it was the visitors who scored on the break with a well struck effort from the edge of the D.

Despite the tireless efforts of Lord and Lazer in the Woking midfield Surbiton's class began to show and only the excellence of Colwil's keeping and more strong defending from Davidson, Sharp and Cullum stopped them from extending the lead further. 3-1 would not have been an unfair result after such a battling display but as the clock ran down, Surbiton pinched a fourth to take the game away from Woking.

The girls now need to pick themselves up and build on the many positives from this performance as they head for Round 2 of the National Cup against Winchester in a few weeks time.