

Match Report – Sunday 28th November

Girls Under 12 League

Reading 3 Woking Hurricanes 0

In summary, better performance than against Aylesbury. Reading have chosen to run their season with only one 11 a-side team. As a result their older and better players were up against a determined but smaller and less experienced Hurricanes team. Nevertheless, we put up a very good show, going down 2 in the first half and then nearly holding them to a second half draw.

Last week tackling the player with the ball was the key issue. This week, the girls tackled really well, particularly Millie, Ella, Molly, Bethan and Emily in defence. We also cleared better, often to the side rather than straight up the pitch, and marked better, albeit dragged out of position at times. Harriet Sharp kindly agreed to be our goalkeeper for the day and what a great game she had, resulting in a pretty strong, if over worked back line.

We struggled to get our 16s away to the midfield although again did much better than last week. Just need to be a little quicker setting up (i.e. before the attacking ring is built) and look wide as well as forward with the hard pass/hit, simple really!! Both Lara and Emily were getting wide in the second half, we just need to get the ball to them.

A number of our players received the ball and looked to do something constructive with it, particularly our midfield line up of Lara, Lucy and Kitty were noteworthy in this category. However, as a team, we have a tendency to receive the ball and then move it on as fast as possible, helpfully usually forward, sadly with no regard to whether a Woking player was there or not. We need to use Fridays to work on their confidence to move with the ball which will buy them time to look up to see who is available.

Up front was a little quiet, but we did have a few forays into the Reading half with Eleanor and Phoebe trying their best to get on the end of balls, however both were marked by someone head and shoulders taller.

We have had our first on pitch injury. Zara made a crunching tackle early on in the game, but came off the worst when the ball bounced up and hit her thumb knuckle. After bravely continuing for a while it was clear that the thumb was not good (and growing in size despite the freezing cold). Zara was last seen heading in the direction of St Peters. Luckily she has two thumbs.

Reading had recorded far bigger victories over both Surbiton and Camberley so this was a good performance and shows that the team is getting better each match. As highlighted, a lot of the teams

we play this season will be made up of girls who are all in year 7 but this will give good experience for next year.

Next game is on the 12th Dec, which gives us two Fridays to work on our 16s, moving with the ball and defensive shorts.