

Match Report - Sunday 29th November

Girls Under 12 Tournament

Woking 0 Staines 1
Woking 2 Guildford 0

Normally I save my thanks to the end - but given the awful weather at today's event I must thank Ali Allcock up front for umpiring throughout the tournament - i.e. she did not get the respite in the warm and dry that the rest of us did between matches!! Many thanks also to all of the parents/grandparents for your vocal support from the touchline - I honestly believe that this group of girls is going to be a real force in a couple of years time! Final table and match report follow.....

	P	W	L	F	A	GD
Woking	2	1	1	2	1	+1
Staines	2	1	1	2	2	0
Guildford	2	1	1	2	3	-1

Woking's girls played through torrential rain to secure top spot in the U12 triangular hockey tournament against Staines and Guildford. Woking, choosing to field an U11 team in the event, started the tournament against Staines just as the heavens opened and were caught napping by their opponents, with makeshift keeper Harriet Sharp forced to make a good early save and goal line clearance.

From thereon the match was played almost entirely in the Staines D but Woking were unable to capitalise on their domination with Staines's defence holding firm in appalling conditions. With Woking pushing forward in ever increasing numbers, they began to lose their shape and a single breakaway attempt in the second half led to unfortunate defeat.

With Guildford securing a 2-1 victory against Staines however, there was still everything to play for in the final match of the day and as the sun broke through, the Woking youngsters finally began to play to their potential. Nicole Chapman Hatchet and Lucie Shortland dropped back into more defensive roles and both put in towering performances, preventing Guildford from a single scoring opportunity. Captain Alice Boneham took control of the match from the centre of the park with some scintillating play, linking well with Abi Lord and Dutch starlet Floortje Hosman who were terrorising Guildford's defence with their skills on the flanks.

With the deadlock unbroken in the first half, the Woking girls somehow found another gear in the second and although the tenacious Megan Mackay was initially denied, the ball was only cleared as far as Hosman who smashed home the first goal. Knowing they needed a second to win the tournament outright however, the Woking girls played some sublime passing hockey, eventually setting up Lord to fire home the winner that secured top spot for Woking's young stars.

Well played everyone!