

Haslemere U8 Mini Festival Match Report Sunday 16th October 2011

Woking Warriors - Managed by Adie Gould

Joe Gould, Lily Johnson, Gregory Ludlow, Thomas Marton, SaskiaStahli, Sam Wavish, Thomas Wilson

6 matches of 10 minutes each
Won 2
Drew 1
Lost 3

This was the first time the 7 players had played together as a team before and so the positions were rotated throughout the matches to gauge the strengths/preferences of the players. From the 3rd match onwards the players really started to gain a greater sense of their own strengths on the pitch and the rest of the team, which really shone through with some great team work and end results. We played a 2 3 2 formation, which worked well overall, with some excellent defending from the 2 Thomas's. There was real determination and strong stick control from Gregory, Sam and Saskia in the mid field and and some great passes from Lily and Joseph to keep the ball moving up front. A special thank you to Hector Wilson who's motivational talks to the team were inspired.

Woking Warriors 0 Havant 2

There were some spirited tackles in this game and some strong defending, but no real opportunities created. The opposition were a strong team and reminded us of the importance of spacing and looking for someone to pass to.

Woking Warriors 0 Chichester 0

Good spacing and passing in the game with a couple of near misses on goal. We defended well and our mid field ensured there were very few opportunities created for the opposition.

Woking Warriors 0 Haslemere Swordfish 1

The players really started to work together as a team and there were 2 goals, 1 from Joseph and the other Gregory, both of which were disallowed. It was at this point we became aware of the the cones acting as the D (we'll know for next time!).

Woking Warriors 1 Haslemere Sharks 0

Encouraged by their team work in the previous match, the team dominated the game, with some great passing by all players. It was this team work that resulted in the first goal of the tournament from Lily.

Woking Warriors 3 Petersfield 0

We dominated this match with a strong win for the team, with 2 goals scored by Lily and 1 by Joseph. The goals were only achievable as a result of the great team work, where players were looking for spaces to receive the ball, defending strongly and mid field pushing the ball up front.

Woking Warriors 0 Gosport 2

Whilst we lost the game, the team fought hard to defend the goal and were relentless in their efforts. The opposition were a very strong team, with great ball control who were able to move the ball up the wing with lightning speed.

Woking Wolves - managed by Richard Louwe

The Woking Wolves Sevens with Maarten Louwe, James Manning, sisters Carmen & Danielle Schellekens, Lucca Williams and Barnaby Wright and Ferdinand Wright played their first tournament of this year at Haslemere Hockey Club. Together with Haslemere, HC Woking was the only club entering more teams than just one player selection.

All the kids worked very hard during the matches and we saw some very technical attacking hockey from James Manning dribbling through the opposition (whilst being one of the youngest players on the field). Lucca Williams who on many occasions got hold of the ball near the goal but too many people to avoid the ball from going in. I was very pleased to see several very strong attacks with great passes between Ferdinand and Barnaby Wright, great work boys! One of these attacks resulted in a very nice goal from Ferdinand against Havant. For Carmen and Danielle it was there very first Hockey Tournament after just joining Woking HC, well done girls you have worked very hard and did hold to the end of the six matches. In defence Maarten Louwe stopped quite a few attacks and in the first few matches he was there where the action was. He did some very powerful shots towards opposition goal but unfortunately these balls went so fast that they couldn't be intercepted by our attackers.

Between the matches we have constantly switched positions to give all players the chance to try each position in the field. Quite a challenge during coaching but the boys and girls managed very well to keep to their positions. In some situations with a defender breaking through into attack I have even seen his position been taken over by a centre player! Great Work!

The match Results

Woking Wolves 0 – 0 Haslemere Swordfish

We had to find our match feeling a bit this first game, several chances but unfortunately no score.

Woking Wolves 1 – 1 Havant

Goal from Ferdi with great attacking teamwork!

Gosport 3 – 0 Woking Wolves

Very strong "A" Selection from Gosport but good defending from Woking. We managed to mark their "Star" player man to man, which broke their attacks quite a bit.

Haslemere Dolphins 0 – 0 Woking Wolves

Again a draw match with loads of chances but an overcrowded goal area and lots of feet in the way.

Fareham 6 – 0 Woking Wolves

The number of matches were really taking its toll on our young team. The Fareham "A" selection was way stronger and older so were able to break through on several occasions scoring 6 goals. I'm very proud to see the kids doing their very best to keep the ball in possession and tackling the opposition.

Haslemere Sharks 0 – 0 Woking Wolves

Last match against also a mixed ability team from Haslemere. Danielle and Carmen took care of defence and all the "Boy" power in centre and attack. On the left wing we had Maarten and James, Barnaby playing from centre mid into attack mode and Barnaby and Lucca covering the right wing. They all gave their last energy reserves eventually resulting in a great shot on goal from either Lucca or Ferdi. I already counted it but the referee judged the shot as too far away. Great passing between the boys in the front and the girls kept their goal area clean resulting in no scores.

I would like to end with to say that I'm very impressed by the level of hockey we have seen last Sunday. Despite the draws and losses we have showed great strength in the field playing against much stronger squads. Very skilful hockey from many of the kids which looks very promising for the rest of the season. So boys and girls, keep on improving your skills and match experience to become the star of the future!