

MIXED B MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 29th November

Loughborough Sharks Mixed B 0 Ashby 1

Although this young team lost this game there is certainly plenty to be positive about. The team is getting stronger all the time and although only a few chances on goal were created it only needed one to go in for a draw. Positive leadership from captain Tessa Halliwell and good coaching from Jamie Hooper are starting to pay dividends and it won't be long before this becomes a winning team



Sat 21st Nov

The whistle blew and the match started. SSC gave the ball to their skilful centre midfield player who took Sharks by surprise as he put the ball in the goal within the first 5 minutes. SSC quickly attacked again; Sharks' goalie Sam Arthur threw himself across the goal but was defeated on the rebound. Sharks responded with a storming run from Elliot Maddison who crossed the ball into the dee which was put away by Andy Halliwell. The tension rose as the players came out for the second half. A great run was made by SSC which ended up as a one handed reverse into the net. Sharks came back more determined than ever. Andy White smashed the ball to the top of the dee, Nick Ousley dummied the ball which left Andy Halliwell open for the shot which made it 3-2 at full time.

Sat 14th Nov

Loughborough Sharks played Kestrels on Saturday 14th November. Sharks turned up determined to stop their losing run. Sharks dominated in the first half but couldn't break through the Kestrels' defence. After the half time team talk Sharks played great connecting hockey. Finally they broke through with a brilliantly executed short corner put away by Andy White. Then Sharks went on to score another through Elliot Maddison during a counter-attack. Sharks clung on to finish with a 2-0 win helped by solid strong play from midfield and defence.

Sat 31st Oct

On an unseasonably warm Saturday Sharks B faced Druck at Groby. Fielding Manus Marudkar as central defender proved an excellent decision for Sharks as he provided the stability at the back to absorb the attacking pressure from Druck. Unfortunately, and some might say unfairly, two goals were awarded that meant the youngsters trailed 2-0 at half time. The second half was more evenly matched with Nick Ouseley and Elliot Mddison making some penetrating runs that troubled the Druck defense. Despite Sharks' efforts it was a break from midfield that favoured Druck and finalised the score at 3-0.

Saturday 24th Oct

Sharks' B were determined to outsmart Leicester Uni with some tactical play but conceded an early goal while one man down. With a full team Sharks were able to redress the balance and looked likely to score. It was unfortunate then that an own goal put the youngsters two - nil down. However, by half time they had clawed back the deficit to one when Andy Halliwell's saved shot resulted in a penalty flick that was ably put way by Ross Matthews. Keen to get points on the board Sharks pushed hard but Leicester retaliated. Each side scored again in the second half. Jez Clarke's fine efforts notched the final Sharks tally to three but they just failed to match Leicester Uni who emerged as winners with four.

Saturday 17th Oct

Sharks youngsters took on a skillful Horizon side. Whilst finding their feet they went behind by two goals but recovered through a short corner buried by Danny Spencer. Only trailing by one Sharks began the second half positively and at times out played Horizon with their simple passing moves. Josie White and Will Marriot battled tirelessly to maintain pressure on the Horizon defence however the Sharks' opposition were able to exploit the through ball and despite Vishal Dhutia's sterling efforts in goal scored three more times. Sharks persisted with their style of play and were rewarded when a cross from Nick Ousley was eventually put away by Max Hancock. The final score was 5-2 to Horizon .

Saturday 10th October

Sharks B youngsters paid dearly for their inexperience against a seasoned Oaks side. With many new players to try out Sharks are still in the early stages of forming a team so credit goes to the first half defence that conceded only two goals; Kieren Dash, Andy White, Amanda Hayes and Max Hancock. During the second half Sharks concentrated on attacking and were awarded a penalty flick for their efforts which, unfortunately, they were unable to convert. Undaunted they continued to press but Oaks were able to respond and planted five past the Sharks goalie. A sound lesson from the elders who were 7-0 winners.

Saturday 3rd Oct

Sharks B's met Rangers 2nd team in a good natured match. With seven youngsters making their debut over the course of the game it took a while for Sharks to settle. Rangers superior strength and maturity established control in the first half and exerted pressure on the Sharks' defence. A well worked short corner and later a clean shot from the top of the 'D' beat stand in goalie Andy Halliwell to give Rangers a two - nil lead at half time. Sharks' heads never dropped. In the second half Josie White, now playing alongside her brother Andy, began to control the left hand side of the pitch and slowed up Rangers' attacks. This allowed Nick Ousley and Matteen Arrain to create some good passing moves on the right that threatened the Rangers 'D'. The more experienced side continued to have some further chances but Emma Schofield and Amanda Hayes ensured that they did not increase their score and it remained 2-0.

Saturday 19th Sept

Newly promoted Sharks B fielded seven new youngsters in their match against Baggie Black Socks. An enthusiastic first fifteen minutes saw a deft ball across the goal by Elliot Maddison slotted past the keeper by Ben Bramwell. Buoyed by their early success Sharks continued to attack. Baggies retaliated and managed to score twice from short corners. During the second half the Baggies began to exploit the Sharks' inexperience. As the youngsters pressed forward it left them exposed at the back, however conceding another goal did not deter them. A strong flick from Andy Halliwell narrowed the gap briefly before a Baggies break away goal. Then a penalty converted by Will Bourne put Sharks back in touch. They went all out to equalise and came close twice but in doing so allowed Baggies to beat Jack Paisley one-on-one. Late in the second half the Baggies tally was seven but the Sharks never gave up and finally Kieron Dash deservedly scored their fourth.