

## Match Report - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

### Boys Under 14 National League (South)

#### Guildford 4 Woking 4

#### Woking 6 Reading 2

Today the boys played in the second round of the South England U14 club competition v Guildford and Reading. As the boys play more than one match on the day, in this competition the matches are 20 minutes per half, 15 minutes between each match.

Guildford - In cold and (very) wet conditions, the boys started very strongly and moved the ball around well in the early stages of the match. We were unlucky not to score our first goal after some good passing in the midfield, up the right channel and into the D. Soon afterwards Charlie Gilbert was able to score from a short corner variation to open the scoring for Woking. Will Calnan then scored to put Woking 2 - up in the first ten minutes. Guildford were still very much in the match though and looked threatening on the break, especially when Woking's standard of passing started to slip and we gave the ball away on a number of occasions. Eventually Guildford was able to capitalise on this and scored three goals to give them the lead at the end of the first half. We were unfortunate that Weston Lord had to leave the match early as he was not 100% recovered from being ill and the poor weather conditions aggravated this. We look forward to him being back on the pitch next week though.

In the second half, Guildford scored again making it 2 - 4 in Guildford's favour. The boys, however, came back strongly and Mathew Ming scored from a short corner, while Will Calnan scored his second of the match to level the scores. The game then swung between each side, with neither able to convert chances or possession into goals.

Final score: Woking - 4, Guildford - 4

Reading - After a short rest in the dugout to warm up, the boys played their second match v Reading. Again the weather conditions took its toll and Harrison Hubbard was forced to sit out as he was not feeling well. Despite only having 10 boys, Woking took the game to Reading and Eddie Way scored his first goal of the match in a one-on-one with the Reading GK. Will Calnan then scored his first of this match, followed by Eddie's second of the match - again his "trademark" one-on-one v the GK. The boys were combining well and putting good passes together, with backs, midfield and forwards working smoothly. Harrison was able to rejoin the match towards the end of the first half and provided good support in the defence. The first half ended with Woking - 3; Reading - 0.

Woking opened the second half well and Will Calnan scored his second of this match, he was also unlucky to be foiled when a thumping shot hit the cross bar from the top of D early on in this half. Reading started to come back into the match as the boys began to lose their concentration and scored two goals to provide some hope for them. This was quickly extinguished when Charlie Gilbert scored and Will Calnan then finished off the game with his third goal in this match - giving him five goals overall on the day.

A few umpiring decisions went against us in this game and the boys do need to adjust to this and not let this affect their play - going forward they will come up against varying levels of umpiring and will need to stay

focussed to play to their ability.

Final score: Woking - 6, Reading - 2

This was the final round for our pool (South - league 2). To accommodate changes from a number of teams withdrawing from the competition, England Hockey have decided that the number of teams qualifying to play in the regional Finals Day will vary per pool, in our case this is now 3 teams (instead of 2) so we will go through to play on 11 April (with Reading and Guildford).

Results can be found at:

<<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/competitions.asp?section=721&sectionTitle=Boys+U14+Club+Competition>>

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Comments from David: Well done everyone who played on Sunday in 2 performances of real character. The draw against Guildford was a result that will make this team as for the first time this season we were under real pressure at 2 - 4 down with bad conditions, no subs and a mountain to climb. I never doubted we would claw our way back and expected us to win even when 2 goals down. We should have won the game after pulling back to 4 - 4 and there are a few aspects on which we need to work, especially the defensive angle when pushing forward.

Again, well done on Sunday, 2 performances of real character and remember, the ball is valuable.