

Inter County U16 Tournament at Whitgift Sunday November 22nd Report

Teams Competing

Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Hampshire, Middlesex

Sussex Squad

Wesley Connelan (Mid Sussex Marlins SC) (Keeper), Joseph Jefferys, (MSMSC), Laura Joseph (Worthing SC), Chloe Kells (MSMSC), Ben Maloney (Crawley SC), Joanne O'Connor (CSC), Georgina Pashler (Hailsham) (Capt.), Olly Rainford (WSC), Hansy Shore (MSMSC), Sam Wildman (WSC).

This year's Sussex team was a young one (due to the low number of 1994 born polo



players across the county), containing only three 'full age' players. We also lost Toby Fraser due to an eye injury sustained playing hockey the day before! The opposition teams were dominated by boys, and most opposition players were or seemed full age.

Matches

Sussex 0 Middlesex 8

,The lack of pre-tournament preparatory sessions told and our players looked like a group of strangers at the beginning. It was a while before the team found its way. Middlesex, one of the stronger teams participating and eventual runners up, took full advantage. This was the only match in which we didn't create scoring chances.

Sussex 2 Hampshire 6

A frustrating match that Sussex dominated without taking enough chances to win it. On at least three occasions we were caught on the break following our missing a scoring chance. Had we played this match last we would have won it.

Scorers, Jefferys, Pashler.

Majors, Connelan, Pasher, Maloney.

Sussex 1 Kent 7

Sussex put in a splendid first half performance that had Kent reeling, as they clearly expected an easier match. This half turned on two missed Sussex penalties that let Kent off the hook and they were able to go in at half time all square at 1-1 and reorganise. In the second half the Kent team's greater size and more substitution options on the bench allowed them to catch us on the break as we went for it, and again we were again caught on the break several times after missing goal attempts.

Scorer, Jefferys

Sussex 3 Surrey 10

Surrey was undoubtedly most powerful and best organised team in the tournament. Nevertheless we were not intimidated and we sprung them a few surprises. Surrey were fortunate not to go down to 6 men before half time, when both referees missed violent conduct on Ben Maloney. As is often the case when the initial incident is missed, Ben was excluded as well, which was weight for weight to Surrey's advantage.

However, Joseph Jefferys sprung the Surrey defence three times as Sussex's improved teamwork allowed us to create many more scoring opportunities

Scorer, Jefferys x3

Majors, Pashler x2, Maloney excluded.

Other Results

Kent 7 Hants 1

Surrey 5 Middx 3

Kent 4 Surrey 10

Hants 3 Middx 8

Surrey 10 Hants 1

Kent 5 Middx 7

Players – Overall

Although we were not the strongest team in the tournament our young players were not intimidated, no heads went down and no undue respect was given. Wesley Connellan was both the busiest and best keeper in the tournament. Joseph Jefferys is a left-handed menace to any defence and with more continuity of service will be more so. Both Georgina Pashler and Joanne O'Connor played with maturity and common sense. All members of the team had plenty of water time and all gave full commitment and should be proud of their contribution to the team's performance. Given that most of the squad will still be eligible to play at this age group next year, there is some cause for optimism, especially if the county can arrange more pre tournament match practice and increase the pool of players available.

Thanks, too, for the enthusiastic support from the many parents who travelled to watch.

Coaching team: Tim Fraser assisted by Norman Griffin (poolside) & Ewan Partridge(statistics)