

## **London Summer League**

### **Under 13s Round 2 – Whitgift May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Team Sussex**

A young and fairly inexperienced Sussex team took to the pool at Whitgift to do battle with strong opposition and acquitted themselves well. Blending a team from a number of clubs inevitably means a 'bedding in' process, thus was the case. Although absence of conflicting swimming competitions allowed us to welcome back several experienced players absent from R1.

#### **Sussex**

1. Alex Thomas
2. Matt Palmer
3. Emma Eades
4. Angus Burns
5. Ollie Oakley
6. Josh Crow
7. Lara Partridge
8. David Marriott
9. Tom Collings

#### **Sussex 3 Croydon 7**

We competed well in this match, but suffered from a lack of shape in defence that cost us several goals against a well organised Croydon as the game progressed. Nevertheless some of the less experienced players showed character and ability in approach play that led to natural finisher Angus Burns getting two well worked goals. Scorers Angus Burns (2), Lara Partridge.

#### **Sussex 3 WL Ealing 4**

Bringing a team together takes time and I have no doubt we would have won this game had we played Ealing last. We dominated early on but were unable to capitalise sufficiently to compensate for some not so good covering play as the game progressed, Ollie Oakley scored what should be the first for many goals from him. Scorers Angus Burns, Lara Partridge, Ollie Oakley.

#### **Sussex 2 Watford 8**

Watford looked a strong team in their preceding matches, so we played this match in a different way, which our young team gave their best shot, with Lara, Matt, Emma and Ollie taking on the opposition with ball carrying sprints that regularly earned free throws and frustrated the opposition. This worked well for the first half in which we competed head to head, we tired a little in the second half and the game tilted

Watford's way, nevertheless we were able to frustrate Watford, who did not dominate to the extent that the score suggests.  
Scorers Angus Burns, Lara Partridge

### **Sussex 2 Sutton & Cheam 6**

Per Watford, S&C looked strong in preceding matches, to counter, we built on the tactics employed in our previous match. S&C's visible weakness was giving away fouls in key areas due to over combative defending, which we played on with ball carrying sprints. Our tactics worked exceptionally well to the extent that we took a two nil lead from our first two forays, as Angus and Lara were repeatedly fouled, allowing Josh and Tom in for first league goals.

The pattern of play continued but S&C recovered from the shock to strike back. However they won the match largely due to good fortune, somehow clearing melee's in their goal area five times or more to counter attack - more by luck than judgement, and benefiting from some lenient refereeing. This was a match the team should be justifiably proud to have played in, and it was clear that S&C were pleased it was over.

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It was particularly enjoyable to see the developing players grow as the match progressed and there is good reason for optimism. I encouraged and pressed our stronger players to take on opponents and try to swim them at every opportunity, to gain territory, frustrate the opposition and give time for others to catch up with play, they did this well. I was also tough on making our team play forwards to marked players rather than risking playing across the back line and fumbling, this worked reasonably well. The team came out after their last game looking absolutely shattered, but with heads high – they all worked hard.

Ewan Partridge 23/5/10