

Third Form Girls Inter-House Hockey

Pool Stages

On the Monday 14 November the Third Form girls competed in the Inter-House Hockey tournament. This was the second major sporting House competition since Soccer Sunday on the first Sunday of term.

The Houses were split into two pools and two Houses managed to enter two teams. Group 1 included Lyttelton, Queen's B, Nugent and Cheshire A. Group 2 included Stanhope, Cheshire B and Queen's A. The top two in each group advanced to the Cup whilst third and fourth in Group 1 and third in Group 2 advanced to the Plate. The standard of hockey was excellent and despite the horrendous weather conditions, the girls' character and commitment shone through - a true Stowe performance from them all. After the completion of the pools, it was decided to host the Finals day later on in the term.

Nugent and Cheshire A advanced to the Cup from Group 1 and Lyttelton and Queen's B qualified for the Plate. In Group 2, Queen's A and Stanhope advanced to the Cup and Cheshire B qualified for the plate.

Finals Day

The girls completed the Inter-House tournament during their training slot on Monday 23 November. The atmosphere was fantastic in the Staff watching were in for another treat.

The Plate was a round robin tournament and eventually went down to goal difference! Lyttelton finished third, Cheshire B finished second and the winners were Queen's B - scoring one extra goal to seal the win.

The Cup was very tense with three of the four matches being decided by a single goal. In the first Semi-Final, Nugent edged past Stanhope 1-0 and Cheshire then beat Queen's A 3-0. In the third-place playoff, Stanhope beat Queen's A 2-1 in a fantastic game of hockey before everyone stayed to watch the much-anticipated Final between Nugent and Cheshire. Nugent had beaten Cheshire 2-0 during the pool stages, but the stage was set for a very competitive Final.

Both teams had chances in the first few minutes but goalkeepers Alice Watson (Nugent) and Darcey Moran (Cheshire) made some excellent saves. Jojo Parker (Cheshire) went close for Cheshire before Gwen Grovit (Nugent) saved the post with a penalty corner strike. Nugent increased the pressure on the Cheshire goal but excellent defending from Izzy Cox (Cheshire) and Ari Hay (Cheshire) kept Nugent from taking the lead. Minty Orchard (Nugent) shot just wide after eight minutes as the game neared extra time. With 30 seconds to go, Jojo Parker broke free on the right, but a fantastic last-ditch tackle from Dominie Dubsky (Nugent) meant to match ended 0-0 after normal time.

Rather than going to penalty strokes, the match continued with the golden goal rule. Whichever team scored first would win the game. As an added twist, after each minute, one player was taken off the pitch! The match continued at a frantic pace as Watson saved from Hay and Nugent won a penalty corner after good work by Orchard. A well worked penalty corner between Dubsky and Grovit saw Dubsky shoot from a tight angle only for the ball to strike the inside of the post and rebound behind Moran in goal and go out for a side line! The match continued at 0-0 until both teams were down to three players - very tiring! Both Houses decided to take off their goalkeeper which left Parker and Hay for Cheshire and Grovit and Dubsky for Nugent.

The girls played fantastically well and showed endless grit and determination. With 20 seconds to go until the teams were down to 1 v 1, Jojo Parker gathered the ball on the baseline before dummying to peel strong and finished smartly with her reverse stick to win the Cup for Cheshire. Cue some mild celebrations!

This was one of the most thrilling House Finals in recent years and congratulations go to all teams that took part.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey