

### 1st XI Girls Hockey 2-1 Win v Bloxham

This was the last match of term and quite possibly, the last ever hockey match for the Upper Sixth. The previous match between the two sides had ended in dramatic fashion with the Stowe girls having to come from 3-0 behind to snatch a late winner.

The match had to start immediately upon arrival to ensure the second slot of matches were able to go ahead before sunset. We had prepared for no warm up and the girls got themselves physically and mentally ready.

The first half was far more comfortable than the first fixture between the three-asides. Stowe dominate possession and territory and after five minutes had a goal bound shot saved on the line by a Bloxham foot. Unfortunately, Stowe missed the resulting penalty stroke and the score remained 0-0. Gracie Potts (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Lauren Yeowart (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Sabyn Maude (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) kept any Bloxham attack at bay and Holly Phillips (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and India Case (Upper Sixth, Queen's) worked tirelessly in midfield.

Stowe own their first penalty corner after good work from Bella Lloyd (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Holly Churchill (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) up front. The strike was well saved by the Bloxham GK and their defence cleared their lines. Immy Bewes (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Isla Holman-West (Lower Sixth, Nugent) continued to pressure the Bloxham centre defence and left half and this ultimately resulted in another penalty corner for Stowe. This time the ball travelled to Bella Lloyd who smashed the ball into the backboard to give Stowe the lead.

A second shortly followed after a hit free hit by Cassidy Jorritsma (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) found Rosie Grayson (Lower Sixth, Nugent) who in turn played Churchill through. The ball rebounded to Eliza Percy (Upper Sixth, Queen's) who put the ball into the goal to double Stowe's lead.

The first half continued to play out with Stowe on top and ended 2-0 with GK Abi Roberts (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) not touching the ball.

Stowe recognised that there would be periods in the second half when we would be under pressure so a professional and disciplined performance was needed.

Bloxham were more on the game in the second half and only good defending from Jemima Howden (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Otilie Hewlett (Lower Sixth, Nugent) kept them out of the 25. Jorritsma continued to run the midfield and India Case was at her best again. The defensive partnership of Sabyn Maude and Lauren Yeowart looked very strong and to two of them along with the Stowe midfield put in a very mature performance. Halfway through the second half, Stowe scored again. With both teams set up for a restart from the centre of the pitch, the goal was mysteriously ruled out and the score remained level. With seven minutes to go, Bloxham counter attacked and forced the ball in the near post to set up a nervy finish but Alex Trumper (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) along with her defensive line saved

and defended well. The game was played out in midfield with the occasional counter attacked through Bewes, Percy and Churchill.

The match ended 2-1 to Stowe and although the girls could have made this easier on themselves, it was a great result on which to finish the term.