



BEDFORD GIRLS' SCHOOL

U15A National Schools Lacrosse, 14th March

By Mrs Lombaard (PE Teacher)

Also on Tuesday 14th March, after the tournament had been postponed from Monday due to high winds, the Under 15s started their tournament bright and early to travel down to Aldershot. This would be the last time the squad would be playing together before joining the senior teams next year, making this tournament extra special.

Making fantastic time down the M1 and M25, the squad began to mentally prepare for a tough round of matches in Section 4. The section included previous opponents Wycombe Abbey as well as St Mary's Calne, Kings Canterbury, St Swithun's and Down House.

Starting with rain during warmup, the squad physically prepared themselves for a long day of matches with uncertain weather led by captains Emmanuelle Devile, Lucy Nissen and Kate Woodward. However, the team was focused and ready for the day (with ribbons in their hair) and having their eye on the top championship division for the knockout rounds.

The first match in Section 4 was against St Mary's Calne with a fantastic 4-1 win. This match gave us the momentum needed for the rounds ahead. The midfield was in full force for this match dominating the centre draws.

Next up was the re-match against Wycombe Abbey. Earlier in the season, the opposition proved to be too strong for us especially with a talented goalkeeper. However, this did not dampen the U15A's spirits and they gave it their all in this match. The team outperformed the opposition on so many occasions and came up with a magnificent 1-1 draw. It was an absolute pleasure to watch the team play in this match!

The third round proved to be a tough match against Downe House. However, a 1-2 loss gave us the bonus point we would so desperately need to compete for a place in the prestigious championship division.

Again, the attack brought their best skills to finish with a 4-1 win against Kings Canterbury for match #4. The midfield, defence and goalkeeper kept their wits playing showing fantastic team play.

By this time, the sun was shining and the results were looking great for the U15A team. However, the last match against St Swithun's was a crucial one as it would determine the team's placement in the knockout rounds. Whilst it wasn't exactly the desired result as the squad was starting to feel the demands of a long day of play, the team squeezed by with a 2-2 draw.

Nerves were high as we waited for the electronic scoring system to update across all tournament play. However, we got the news we had been waiting for - we had made it to the championship division of the knockout rounds! Our team goal had been achieved but we only went up from there.

In the Championship division, the team faced another past opponent Putney High. Again, the earlier season's result had us needing to prove our worth on the pitch. Despite some unexpected illness and injury, the team banded together to give it their all. After a draw on the final hooter, the match went into a nail-biting overtime with a 'golden goal' deciding the final result. Putney was able to slip one past us to put them through to the next round and eventually to the final. This was an absolutely amazing match to watch and the squad should be so proud of their efforts and finish as one of the top 16 teams in the country. Our opponents definitely walked away knowing we were a formidable adversary!

A huge well done to all team members and best of luck next year in the Under-19 squad!

U15A Team

Lucy Nissen (GK), Emma Adesley, Charlotte Brackenbury, Molly Brierly, Isla Campbell, Alice Challacombe, Esme Challacombe, Emmanuelle Devile, Alice Everitt, Alice Lawson, Keyah Longdon, Isabella Moretto, Jessica Parrish, Sophia Potts, Kate Woodward and Jessica Yeoman.

