



Boys' Hockey

Young hockey star plays for England!

William Furlong, a pupil at Vinehall School, was selected to play for the Under 13 England team, *The Vulcans*, to play for his country at Nottingham. After some exciting matches William came home wearing a gold medal, his team having defeated Scotland, Ireland and Wales. William played in defence and certainly he was effective as hardly any goals were scored by the opposing teams.



1st XI Hockey Report

Our short hockey season has again come and gone far too quickly. It has been one of mixed fortunes, but overall the team has worked hard in training and has shown a steady level of improvement. Our first outing after only two training sessions was to Holmewood House. We held our own very well in the first half, showing some good passing and team work. Soon after the interval we let in a goal, but we stuck at it and had a few chances to score but finally let in a second near the end. The next fixture against Dulwich College was a different story they have just had a new Astro laid and it showed. We found it difficult to adapt to their speed and levels of skill and went down fighting 4-1 Marcus Rowe scoring our goal sneaking in at the far post. Next we took on the Old Enemy St Andrew's. By this time we had managed to iron out some of our problems and confidence was high. On a new Astro we finally started to play like a team and with two well taken goals from Tom Grant we came away 2-1 winners. A mini tournament at Marlborough House was our next outing with two seven-a-side teams playing a round robin tournament. Honours here were even as we won one lost one and drew two. Our final two matches against St Bede's and St Ronan's were played at Horntye which is a very sandy pitch in Hastings. Against St Bede's we went down 2-1 in a match we should have won, more passing practise required. Our final match against St Ronan's was a better display and we secured a 1-1 draw, thanks to a Chris Boshier goal from such an acute angle it even fooled the umpire. A special mention for Jamie Stork in goal, Chris Boshier and Will Furlong who worked tirelessly in mid-field, and our Captain Bobby Maclean for leading the team both on and off the pitch.

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2nd XI Hockey Report

The prospect of preparing teams and coaching some hockey skills on the Cornfield Pitch filled me with dismay at times it was too wet to plant rice!! However spirits were good and we managed the best we could. Despite some promising play in the four inter school matches the 2nd XI failed to win any matches and failed to score any goals!

There were two games at Horntye Park, Hastings where the size and pace of the pitch took a lot of getting used to. Both games were however closely contested matches but we lost them both 2-0 v Holmewood House and St Andrews. Fitness levels were exposed on a full size pitch but all did their best.

The next two games were lost 3-0 to St Bedes and Bethany the latter game taking place at the Marden Astro where it was apparent the oppositions stick skills and control were far superior to ours not surprising when they use the facility three times a week!

Credit to the boys who played for the 2nd XI we came up against teams used to playing and practising on astro or similar we cannot really compete on these terms and expect to win but we sure gave 100% effort and tried hard.

Player of the season voted for by the team was Jamie Wardle probably for his determined approach, great tackling and for never giving up in any of the matches. A thoroughly well deserved award.
NJB