

O.G Sport Club

Hockey Match

Sunday 15th March 2015

A fine Spring day greeted the OG team to Glenalmond for the annual fixture against the school. This is the first year for a number of years that the fixture has taken place. After a hearty Sunday lunch in the dining hall and a quick change in the Gannochy with the new shirts donned, the OGs took to the top astroturf.

The team consisted of 7 OGs, a couple of members of staff in Steve Smith and Alasdair Purdie and a ringer in James Killingbeck who was a late addition to the team following 3 players sadly dropping out in the days leading up to the game. Tinker Fraser, a current parent of one of the players kindly picked up the stick and played for the team as well.

Only one of the OG team, Kate Hill (Lothian 2003-2005), still plays Hockey regularly. There were however some engines and fitness in the team, leading from the back with Jamie Sole (Reid's 2002-2007) and Richard Mill (Goodacre's 2000-2005) who both still play regular high level rugby. The likes of Angus Mill (Goodacre's 2002-2007) hadn't even picked up a stick since school, a time when he was a goalkeeper. Lynsey Grewar ((nee Brunton) Lothian 2000-2005), Alice Campbell (Lothian 2003-2008) and Matthew Waterston (Matheson's 2002-2007) had taken to the field since school, but nothing overly serious. This combination led to a longer than intended warm up as everyone tried to familiarise themselves with a hockey ball again! The school turned up with a strong side, many of whom were part of the 1stXI, however they were also playing their 3rd game in 3 days, including a cup final and a close loss to Fettes the previous day.

Positions were delegated, with Alasdair a commanding presence in the goals! The school started well as many of the OGs struggled to find their feet, quite literally! Having not previously played as a team this became quite apparent, the school scoring a couple of quick goals after some early OG pressure. Alasdair in goals was struggling to deal with a few of the shots coming at him, most likely down to his defence and midfield running around clueless. Another couple of goals from the school led to a 4-0 lead.

The OG team then started to warm up and find their feet. Some good shots were hit on target however the school keeper was pulling off some good saves. More teamwork and interlinking passing was coming to the fore. Half time came along, with a much needed break and catch up with the supporters and fans. Great to see some of the teachers as well as the youngest OG supporter out there in wee Tom Grewar, not even a year old.

The second half told a different story. Alasdair decided to swap goals and went in for the school. Some good passing and movement led to our first goal, a debut goal for James Killingbeck. Much to our astonishment some fine passing led to another couple of goals, one from Kate and from Tinker. Richard was as competitive as ever, chasing everything down, bloodied but unbowed. Some surging runs from Jamie at the back and sound defence from Angus, Steve and Alice brought about an equalising goal from James again. No one could really believe it, but with 14 minutes left on the clock the game was there for taking. Or was it, a quick check with Mike Davies, the referee, he seemed to think we were 5-4 up. Mind games from the school! This didn't stop the rampaging Richard, and before we knew it 2 more quick goals followed. Alasdair, now in the school goals, had no answer to the balls trickling and whizzing past him. Or was it the distraction of Kate and Lynsey running around in front of him! In any case the comeback was complete. The final whistle blew much to the elation of the OG team completing a 6-4 win.

A game played in great spirits on both sides, and a lot of fun was had by all.

Thank-you to the school for hosting the OG team and for the lovely pre and post match food. Also to the players that stepped in at the last minute to help out on numbers.

We hope to get more and more OGs involved in this fixture in the future so please spread the word, it was a great day out.

Make sure you all mark your diaries for March 2016 and the last Sunday of the school term for next year's return match!

Matthew Waterston