

OG Mixed XI v Glenalmond Mixed XI

Sunday 20th March 2016

March 20th is traditionally the first day of spring, but more importantly it sees the annual fixture OG mixed hockey fixture against the school. A fantastic turn out from the OGs saw a squad of 16 travel up, down and across to play the school on their new state of the art water based astro surface. The team saw a mix of recent leavers to those that left in the mid 2000s, and a real blend of regular hockey players to some who hadn't picked up a stick since school. The new OG playing shirts were handed out, the warm up commenced in earnest involving casual stretching and a short intimidating the opposition run. Positions were allocated, a serious team talk was had and the battle commenced.

Glenalmond have had a strong hockey season through the boys and girls teams. The mixed team that they put out included some very talented individual pupils. But what was evident was the team cohesion and good coaching, something that the OGs struggled to get to grips with in the first 5 minutes as the school piled on the pressure with some neat inter play, resulting in an early goal. The back four of Hamish McCallum, Ailie Johnson, Alice Campbell and Robbie Swift were under some serious pressure, however Simon Boendermaker in goals was pulling off some good saves. Chances starting coming the OGs way, some good stick work and interplay between midfielders Richard Mill and Ross Davies saw forwards Doug Meikle and Ollie Fergusson have decent efforts only to be saved from the outstanding school keeper. The school were good on the counter, using width and moving the ball around. The OGs left gaps between the midfield and defence at times which were exploited by the school as they put in another goal midway through the first half. Rolling substitutions were coming and going as the OGs were seeking to get a foot hold in the game. Flora Fergusson was industrious on the wing up against some very skilful girls, and was backed up by Jonny Stage who hadn't picked up a stick since school and showed some good defence and skills. The OGs were very unlucky not to score in the 10 minutes before half time. Some good driving forward from Angus Sandison, Mill and Davies was setting up chances for the forwards, and given more practise and luck these would have ended up in the back up the net. Meikle had a lovely strike hit the cross bar, and Davies a couple of backsticks only to be saved well. Just before the half was over the school caught the OGs on the break, stormed up the pitch and scored. 3-0 at half time was ominous, but on another day the OGs could have easily been 4-3 up.

Refuelled and re-energised with Lucozade at half time, with some brief references to tactics and reminding the fact most of the guys had been out skilled by the school girls, the OG started the second half with renewed fervour. Gemma Sole and Bret Martin were rolling back the years with some good skills and creating chances in front of goal. By this stage in the game many of the OGs were starting to get back into the swing of it, and some neat interplay resulted in a melee in front of the school goals. Between Sole, Sandison, Mill and Fergusson the ball managed to creep over the line for the first OG goal. This gave some belief as the fans gathered on the side recalled the memorable game of last year where the OGs came back from 4 goals down to win 6-5. The back four were bolstered by Josie Mallinson and Matt Waterston who were helping try and hold the fort and limit chances for the school. With this new found belief the OGs surged forward yet again, Davies, Sole, Waterston and Sandison found some crisp passing, and the ball of energy and positivity that is Mill managed to sneak the ball in at an angle. 3-2 it was and the OGs were very much in the game, the crowd were on tender hooks with a close finish in prospect, game on! McCallum, Mallinson and Campbell were solid at the back as Swift and Johnson pushed further forward. Opportunities in front of goal were still coming, Sole, Martin, Davies and Meikle all had chances to equalise but some staunch defending from the hosts kept the ball out. As the OGs pushed a high line searching for an equaliser a stray ball in the heart of the OG defence was picked up by the school forward and despite the best efforts of Boendermaker he managed to sneak the ball past. Gut wrenching for the OGs but there was still time and belief. Constant rolling subs brought fresh legs on, but the school played around the OGs and wound the clock down. The final whistle sounded, a 4-2 win for the school. Some despondent OG players, however everyone gave a fantastic performance and if we had more match practise the result could have been very different. Lots of fun was had which is the main thing. The school played in great spirit and we hope that we can build on this fixture and see many of the same players back next year.

I encourage those interested to get involved to please get in touch. We do hope to run both a Mens and Ladies OG team in the future to play the school as well as possibly other old pupils teams. For more information please contact the [Alumni Department](#) or join the facebook page '[The Old Glenalmond Hockey Club](#)'.

Final Score- OG XI 2 Glenalmond XI 4

Match report by Matt Waterston



Team:-

Simon Boendermaker GK (Patchell's, 2008-13)

Gemma Sole (Lothian, 2003 – 08)

Alice Campbell (Lothian, 2003 – 08)

Richard Mill (Goodacre's, 2000 – 05)

Bret Martin (Matheson's, 2000 – 05)

Jonny Stage (Matheson's 2002 - 05)

Douglas Meikle (Reid's, 2005 – 10)

Matt Waterston (Matheson's, 2002 – 07)

Angus Sandison (Skrine's, 2010 – 15)

Hamish McCallum (Matheson's, 2003 – 08)

Josie Mallinson (Lothian, 2005 – 10)

Ollie Fergusson (Patchell's, 2006 – 11)

Flora Fergusson (Lothian, 2009 – 14)

Ross Davies (Patchell's, 2008 – 13)

Robbie Swift (Reid's, 2008 – 13)

Ailie Johnson (guest)