Darlington Hockey Club

Ladies 2nd XI season 2107-18

This has been a great season for the 2s. A good start on our new home pitch at Carmel. We started the season with a 6-0 win in our first game and we continued to play well throughout the season finishing the season with a win too.

We managed to win 10 of our games and draw 3 - (OK we still lost 7 but each time we lost we made the opposition work hard for their win, and on more than one occasion played with only 10 players, twice the opposition did not realise this til the end of the game.)

The weather made this a very interesting season with more games being postponed than I can remember for a long time. Trying to fit these games back in was a challenge and involved evening matches in freezing weather and several weekends with games on Saturday and Sunday. (thank you to Rachel and Stephen for sorting out new dates and pitch bookings) However, we did get them all played and eventually managed to come 5th in the 2nd Division League.

This season we managed to score 57 goals. 57 goals is a huge achievement, - sadly I was unbale to score even though I played more in attack than I did defence this season. The role of the Captain is to fill the gaps and this year the gaps were up front (not my chosen position but would like to think I was instrumental in setting several of the goals up).

We have had over 27 different players play for the squad this season, but a solid core of consistent players has made a difference to our game. We have also had the joy of 3 goal keepers to choose from.

It is a pleasure to be in the 2nd XI (if a little frustrating at times) in that we get to encourage and support our Juniors and watch them improve in skill and confidence – frustrating because before we know it the 1st XI have ‘pinched’ them. The improvement in many of our players is evident in the votes for man of the match week by week. Millie won our Players Player of the season but followed closely by Bethany and Amy T. Becky Potter may well have gained even more votes but the 1st kept ‘borrowing her’. I think every player that played for the squad this year gained at least one vote – showing how much of a team effort the season has been.

The 2nd XI would not be what it is without the more senior players guiding and encouraging those around them – my thanks to all who have played this season.

My thanks to must go to Lindsey (and Sam) who stood in as Captain when I have been unavailable, in fact, every time Lindsey was ‘captain’ the team won!! Also, my thanks to Chris who collected in the monies each week and made sure it got to Sam promptly.

A huge thank you to our Umpires – without whom we could not play and our thanks to Rachel for organising them.

Thank you for the privilege of being the Second Team Captain – now is the right time for me to stand down knowing that the Captaincy is being passed in to safe hands.

There is a saying that goes ‘’individuals play the game, but teams beat the odds’’ and another which says ‘’the ability of a group of people to do remarkable things hinges on how well those people pull together as a team’’ the 2s have certainly pulled together and, in my opinion, done remarkable things. Thank you

Dot Thomson

2nd Team Captain May 2018