



Squad Report

Hurricanes Team Name Under 9's	
Opposition H-Cup	
Hove, Haywards Heath, Horsham	
Date 6 th Feb 2011	Location Haywards Heath
Report Author Andy Reed	
Players Names	
Luca, Archie A, Archie C, Charlie, Oliver M, Theo, Finlay, Marcus, Thomas, James, Harrison, Sam G, Freddie, George.	

Session/Match/Festival Report

Very windy conditions met us as we arrived at the Haywards Heath ground, however luck was with us as we were allocated a pitch in the lee of some hedging which met we could at least pitch of shelter for the day without it blowing away.

Hastings had withdrawn from the competition at late notice which meant that we only had three competitive matches to play. It is true to say though what we lacked in quantity of opposition we made up for in quality. These three sides would push us hard and we had to be on our game to compete.

First up was a game against a physically big Hove side. After the whistle and the first ruck the coaches looked at each other and sucked our teeth as Hove drove us back off a ball which looked like was ours. It looked like we were in for a very tough game. However, as always the players reacted well to tough opposition and didn't take another backward step in any other ruck or tackle, in fact we started to grind down the much bigger Hove side and with team spirit and technique. With the forwards winning and securing the ball and the backs being set free by Luca's great scrum half play we ran out 3-0 winners. At the end the referee stated that it had been the best game of under 9's rugby he had seen. I must admit I was amazed at the total commitment of the players who came off having given their all.

Next up was Haywards Heath, this was going to be a step up for the team, we had played Heath once before this season at Crawley and had a huge encounter with both teams cancelling each other out. They hadn't played so were fresh and we only had 10 mins to recover from a big game so I rotated some of the players to bring fresh legs to the team. H Heath are always well drilled and especially strong in the tackle and they started very quickly, putting in big tackles and starting to dominate the contact area. We again reacted very well to this and started to impose ourselves on the game (especially in the second half) but in the end we couldn't recover from a 2 try deficit from the first half and went down 2-1 at the final whistle.

Session/Match/Festival Report (Cont)

Finally we had a game against Horsham, I had warned the players that Horsham will be a good team, who will punish us if we let them control the breakdown and get into space with the ball in hand. I needn't have worried the players (*still smarting from the Haywards Heath game*) started very quickly, smashing into tackles and driving Rucks and gave Horsham no chance to get into the game and we ran out 2-0 winners.

"All in all" a great days rugby, we still had lots of rugby in the team and a quickly arranged inter-team match was stopped after 10 mins as it was getting a bit too serious and someone was going to get injured. It was good however to see though that the players really wanted to continue to play hard even after 3 punishing games.

Mentions for Couple of Players, (don't normally do this but just this time ☺)

Luca, *who played some fantastic scrum half play and kept the team driving forward*

Theo, *as always the player who give the team momentum in going forward*

Finlay, *some fantastic driving away from rucks deep into the opposition defence*

Marcus, *for putting in the tackle of the day on an opponent twice his size and bringing him crashing down.*

Sam G, *had a huge day, leading by example as any good captain should.*

George, Archie C, *for giving us speed in the backs and also getting involved in the rucks when you have to.*

Archie A, *For some fantastic tackling and taking the ball forward.*

Finally

A mention for the whole squad who went to the H Cup, as a coach it is difficult to balance the success of the team and the want to give as many players festival playing time as possible. It is always difficult to change a side that is playing well and it introduces the possibility of disrupting the side and losing momentum. The players on Sunday were rotated several times during the games and at no time did this subtract from the Willingness, Commitment and Effort of the side and I think it is a credit to all the players that this was the case.

Well done to everybody for a great mornings Rugby, thanks to the parents for all your support and thanks to Justin for bringing the shelter along.

This coming Sunday we host a joint training session with **Uckfield**, looking forward to it ☺

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Session/Match/Festival Report (Cont)

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