

Squad Festival Report

Hurricanes Team Name: U10s	
Opposition: Crawley, Eastbourne, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Hove.	
Date: 31 st October.	Location: Crawley
Report Author: JL	
Players Names: Harry D, Harry P, Matthew, William, Charlie, Aaron, Joe L, Joe M, Howard, Ben, Miles, Sebby, Kristian.	

Festival report

A rather wet welcome greeted us on arrival at Crawley and we learned that some forced changes to the running order meant that our first match would not be played until after 11.00. In order to use the available time wisely we decided to drill the squad in the area that had caused us the most problems at the Thurrock festival the previous week, namely our speed and commitment to the breakdown/ruck. The squad responded well to the session and we looked forward to our first game with some confidence.

CRAWLEY

Our first opponents were the home side who unfortunately only had a seven strong squad available for the match. We fielded a team of seven in opposition on what was now looking a wide pitch with space to spare. Our players played well against a spirited Crawley side but with a packed substitutes “bench” and an enlivened pack we scored some early tries and increased our lead as the game progressed.

Result: Hurricanes 4 – Crawley 0

EASTBOURNE

Next up were Eastbourne. Now playing the full 9-a-side we were looking to build on our first performance with particular emphasis on our forwards getting to, securing and winning ball. Again Eastbourne were extremely competitive but our rucking proved the deciding factor and provided the platform for our second win of the day.

Result: Hurricanes 3 – Eastbourne 0

HAYWARDS HEATH A

With Haywards Heath fielding two full squads in the tournament their premier team were always going to provide a huge challenge. Our players were extremely competitive and in an extremely close game which was cut slightly short due to a (thankfully) minor injury, Haywards Heath scored the only try of the game to take a well fought win.

Result: Hurricanes 0 – Haywards Heath 1

HORSHAM B

With our confidence high from our previous performance Horsham's second team played an attacking game from start to finish but we took our chances well and managed to open a comfortable margin by full-time.

Result Hurricanes 6 – Horsham 0

HOVE

Our second place finish in our group resulted in a match up with the second placed team from the other group Hove. Again a very, very close game with almost nothing between the two sides but in the end Hove scored the only try of the match to take a narrow win.

Result: Hurricanes 0 – Hove 1

Summary

Congratulations to all the teams competing today and especially for Crawley for running such an enjoyable day in the face of some pretty inclement weather. Big thank you to Tash for looking after all our admin' and to Kevin for seemingly refereeing pretty much the entire day.

Overall an extremely positive performance with vastly improved rucking, communication and tackling in evidence with our defence letting in just two tries

during the entire day. Our competitiveness against two of the premier west Sussex teams was a major step up for the entire squad,

Areas for improvement.

Our game as a whole is still too slow. We need to be much faster at recycling the ball and aim for far more “quick ball” from the tackle, ruck and maul. This will enable us to move the ball wide while still moving forward and committing the defenders. Our body position taking the ball into contact was poor at times. Too often we almost offered the ball to the opposition as we went in. We often got on a good drive only to find the ball appearing on the other side at the end of it! Our upcoming training sessions will be focusing on these areas and will aim to build on a very, very solid performance from the team today which everyone. Players and parents should be very proud of.

JL