Mid-Sussex Marlins – Match Report

BWPL, Division 2, 18th and 19th November

The final weekend of the season saw a strong squad of 12 heading to Liverpool for matches against Bristol and Tyldesley.

Following some intensive training sessions led by coach Stefan, the team performed extremely well in the first match of the weekend against Bristol.

**Mid-Sussex Marlins vs. Bristol**

Marlins looked in command from the start with some well-executed movement. Lillie S opened the scoring converting a penalty within the first minute. A further 3 goals from Holly, Lillie S and Lauren put the ladies 4-0 up. Bristol managed to get on the scoreboard, scoring 3, interspersed with a determined goal from Elsie. The first quarter ended with Marlins 4-3 up.

Q2 saw Marlins very much in control and going another two ahead (Holly), and Bristol managing just one goal with a halftime score of 7-4.

Marlins kicked off the 2nd half with a dominating performance, culminating in 2 goals for Lillie S and one for Izzy. Lillie added to her appearance on the match sheet with an exclusion, but extremely tight defence prevented Bristol from scoring. Bristol did however mange to scrape another 2 goals, before Izzy added another to her Q3 tally. A couple of minutes before the end of the quarter Bristol were awarded a penalty. Maddie made an amazing save, resulting in the Q3 scoreline seeing Marlins extend their lead to 11:6.

The fourth quarter saw a strong Marlins performance making a fatigued Bristol work really hard. At this point the result was never in doubt and it was inevitable that Marlins pulled away with another 5, well-executed goals – Holly and Lillie (2 each) and one for Becky. Bristol did however manage to add one to their total. The full-time score was 16-7. Lillie (6), Holly (5), Izzy (2) and one for Becky, Lauren and Elsie.

**Mid-Marlins vs Tyldesley**

The match started with a strong swim from Becky and some good ball movement around Tyldesley’s goal. Lillie S had two shots on the woodwork, but some great ball movement and a beautifully delivered ball resulting in Holly scoring after 2mins. Marlins pressed the advantage of a man-up allowing Holly to bag her second. Lauren had two shots on the goal before Tyldesley gained possession pushing Maddie to making a confident save. Tyldesley kept the ball in our half and finally managed to go one up.

The very intense second quarter started with Becky winning the swim off again and some good movement and hard press resulted in an exclusion for Tyldesley, which Marlins exploited again with a decisive goal from Lillie. Another two Tyldesley exclusions inside 90seconds were defended very well and despite Marlins dominating possession, Tyldesley managed to claw back a goal after 4mins. This only motivated Marlins to go on a goal-scoring spree, with Holly holding her position professionally and being ready to capitalise on some well-delivered balls, scoring 3. Becky added to this with a stunning goal! Tyldesley responded with 2 goals in the last minute. Half time score 4-7.

Q3 started with Elsie winning the swim off, but after just 30seconds Tyldesley took the score to 5-7. This was the point at which Tyldesley started to command the quarter with some great ball movement and strong play. Elsie was excluded for ‘hand-waving’ to the ref! In the next 90 seconds Tyldesley dominated with three goals in quick succession.

At 8-7, they were ahead for the first time in the match. Holly levelled the score and the team once again gained some composure, but not before Tyldesley had managed to go ahead again. A great delivery from Becky enabled Izzy to execute a classic push shot. A penalty was award against Maisie with Tyldesley converting to go 10-9 up. With just 12 seconds remaining in the quarter, Izzy levelled the scores once more and despite a time out, Tyldesley couldn’t pull ahead.

A firm talk from Stefan resulted in Marlins coming back to form and looking much stronger in Q4, but despite a very composed effort, some great saves from Maddie and tight ball control, we were punished hard from the two slip ups we made, with Tyldesley scoring another 2.

The full-time score was 12-10 to Tyldesley which was not a reflection of the run of the game. Holly (6), Izzy (2), Becky and Lillie S one each. Just one exclusion – Elsie.