Old Loughtonians vs Oakway

2nd October 2010

2-2 draw

A full team, plus subs, arrived at Old Loughts ground including the return of Fern, back from wedding marathons, and Geraldine & Marion, back from NOT seeing his Holyness! And all way on time, .....things could only go down hill from here then!?

Unsure which pitch we were actually playing on, we were finally pointed to the 1st’s pitch, complete in all its ‘glory’! I say that with a hint of sarcasim, as its glory was long passed! As we watched the previous teams exit, stage left, we could see the pitch had definitely left its mark on all and sundry! In our years of playing hockey, we’ve played on grass, mud, mud and grass, astro and sand, astro and water, and now we had to play on astro and sludge. Or slime, green fish pond slime. Hey ho, lets hope that Ariel really did do what it said in the advert!

After a tight first of the first half, of which neither team made any real attack on goal, Hedi seized on a loose ball in the Old Loughts defence, and weaved her way into the D. A quick flick across goal, and there was our very own goal machine, Marie, waiting to slide it home! 1-0 to Oakway.

Half time. Half time had its own drama’s. While we were accessing each other’s kit and just how much slime had gone all over it, our umpire left the pitch. I’m not going to comment on the why’s and such, but suffice to say after lengthy discussions with both captains (Sandra, what would we do without you!) and the remaining umpire, it was decided to play on, at least for a friendly! Obviously we felt slightly aggrieved, being 1 up away from home to a decent side.

 And so feeling on the hard done by side, we began the 2nd half, with their umpire and a stand in one, who’d been quickly found. Old Loughts obviously and probably rightly, felt we were slightly at odds with the situation at half time, and stepped up the attack on our goal. As usual the ‘masterful’ ☺ Oakway defence held together,...for the time being. Subs were made, and Keshini made her first away appearance at the back. Fern came in for the plane bound Marion & Geraldine was replaced with Sandra. Still Old Loughts pushed, but Oakway broke and brought a superb goal from Suzanne, who had been threatening all match to regain the power and back swing, she’d excelled (and wrecked havoc with opposition defences everywhere ☺ ) with last season. 2 up and we felt the match, albeit now a friendly so we thought, was ours. Unfortunately Old Loughts refused to lie down, and with earlier short corners, sensed they were due a goal. And a break down their right resulted in a very good goal. No narrowing down of angles was going to shut that one out! And with 5 minutes or so to go, a slight lapse in concentration at the back for Oakway resulted in their 2nd, not underserved, but still stoppable. Final whistle resulted in both Captains now agreeing to keep it a league game, so not to upset the schedules, and both would walk away with a well earned point. The pitch had succeeded all round, by leaving its mark on all who had played on it, and not just on our kits! Faces too were dotted with green slime but then it’s not often you play on the bottom of a fish pond! I think the smell will last a little longer though..............!

Next week....back at home and hopefully no more drama’s or slime!