

BICESTER FOXCUBS FESTIVAL 2011

The ethos of the 2nd Foxcubs festival/tournament was to let the young players play as much hockey as possible in the time allowed, have FUN and keep everything crossed for a dry day - I believe that all three were achieved.

The under 8's and under 10's began the festival, with each age group fielding two teams, proudly wearing their Foxcubs team shirts and colours.

Under 8's

These very young players from the beginning showed Great Spirit and enthusiasm despite a very cold wind blowing across the Astroturf. Lots of good tackling and a growing awareness of team play soon resulted in the attackers running into the opponents scoring zone and scoring great goals, this was followed by loud cheers from the parent supporters on the sidelines. The defenders made some excellent clearances and kept the ball out of their own goal. Considering the youngest player is just 4 1/2 years and for the vast majority this is their first hockey season they were all very Impressive and rightly deserved their festival medals. Pauline and Mr. Shaun say Thank you and well done to you all, Joseph Clark (Goal scorer), Luca Eagleton, Sean Lock, William Grainge, Chloe Everest, Catherine Cousins, Olivia Paoli, Jason Blunsdon, Tom Ward, Freddie, Jessica Robertson, Katie Mitchell, Lewis Sullivan, Rosie Foote and Leah Grundy.

Under 10's

The two teams had a very good tournament, building on the experience from the Wallingford and Witney tournaments to play some very competitive hockey. Bicester 'A' or "Alphas" as they named themselves, battled with midfield and attack, winning possession and passing well, to set up a number of shooting opportunities. They were rewarded with a well deserved goal in their final game. Strong defensive work and great goal keeping kept the opposing attackers at bay. Bicester "B", played all their matches with great enthusiasm and teamwork, running and dribbling the ball around and through their opposition but were unlucky not to be rewarded with a goal. Special note should be made for Evie, who was press ganged into putting on the goal keepers kit (she had never worn it before!!). With trepidation she took to the pitch, and then wowed the assembled parents with clearance after clearance before putting a City of oxford attacker flat on his back – before apologising to him, excellent sportsmanship.

John and Stuart thank you for all your hard work, amazing spirit and determination throughout the tournament. Ben Everest, Charlotte Foote, Daniel Evans, Ellie Madden, Emma Keen, Evie O'Connell, Harry Jackson, Lily Mitchell, Lucy Reynolds, Luc Paoli, Pippa Grainge, Sam Robertson, Tansy Hammond and Lewis Grundy.

Under 12's

Three Bicester teams took part in this age group and initially played three group matches each before going into the playoffs for overall positions where they played a further three

games. Olivia and Alana the two U12's goal keepers had their work cut out in the group matches playing 2 or 3 matches back to back, which involved several pitch changes. For the playoffs the U10 goalkeeper, Charlotte Foote joined in and kept her cool even when faced with some strong and taller opposition. Each team displayed good awareness of positional play, supporting each other to link passes and be rewarded with the ultimate prize – GOALS!! The goal scorers of the day were Kieran (double figures!!!), Ben and Alice. The mid fielders and defence put in some terrific tackles and battled well to keep the opposition out of their "D", winning the ball to send it to their own attackers. Stuart M, Shaun and Pauline would like to thank you all for your hard work, great determination and skillful play. Keep up the good work, Olivia Clark, Alice Wilson, Catherine Belcher, Eleanor Grainge, Imogen Thripland, Charlotte Smith, Ben Hughes, Thomas Madden, Caitlin Woods, Jennie Proctor, Alana Honey, Jessica Skellern, Julia Green, Rachel Cowan, James Keen, Sam Reynolds, Kieran Finch, Amber Jackson, Ethan Eldridge, Imogen Ward, Jamie Jackson, Kimberley Blunsdon, Maisy Fincham and Charlotte Foote.

I am sure the coaches and parents will join me in praising you all for a fantastic day of hockey; we have watched you over the past weeks develop your game play and improve your skills; you are an amazing credit to Bicester Hockey Club and yourselves.

A big thank you from all the coaches!

And a big thank you to all the parents for their support on and off the pitch. A fantastic day!