

Date: 22nd September 2014

Tournament warm up for Hinckley Ladies

Hinckley Ladies Netball Club entered two teams into a friendly tournament last weekend over at Ambleside in Nuneaton. The two teams were a mix of next season's selected B-F teams. They were put into two different groups with Hinckley's first team getting the more difficult group of the two. Despite this, they played well and narrowly lost by just one goal in their first game with Griff & Coton 12-13. The second game was a much more difficult affair with Hinckley's defence of Julia Waite, Holly Hemsley and Jo Oakes working relentlessly to stop Ambleside 'A' from taking full advantage of their very tall Goal Shooter, Ambleside took the game 13-7. Next up were Arley's Angels, a very tough side and despite some great shooting from Gail Lavery and Shannon Davis, with great feeds and support from Jayne Marlow and Caron Ogden, Hinckley lost out again by just one goal 10-11. Their final match against Alvis was a much more even affair with Hinckley working hard to try to get a win. Centre Ogden tirelessly chased the ball, making an impact at both ends of the court with countless interceptions. The match however ended in a 6-6 draw.

Hinckley's second team fared better and managed to come second in group 2. Through determination and great fighting spirit they won their first three games 10-7, 15-9 and 13-9. With 8 players rotating positions throughout the day the team went out strong and despite being a mix of several different Hinckley teams, they played well and quickly adapted to working together. The combination of mature knowhow and youthful energy was provided by shooters Gemma Braga and Darcey Arrowsmith in the circle and the defensive trio of Emma Draycott, Jess Burke and Nicole Evans battled hard deflecting shots and stealing back possession at the other end of the court. Centre court also worked hard with Becky Kenney, Leanne Evans and Rachael Short moving the ball down court well and timing passes brilliantly to provide opportunities to score. Unfortunately they could not maintain their winning streak for the last match of the group stages as they lost to Ambleside 'B' 6-13.

The team were optimistic about their chances going into the semi- finals despite their opposition, Arley's Angels, finishing first in Group 1. Hinckley fought hard but were unable to gain control of the game, though there were

some excellent interceptions and chasing down of loose balls around the court. The game ended 3:27. The team's final match was the battle for third place against Ambleside 'B'. It was a difficult match with several very tired players and some fresh legs borrowed from Hinckley's other team. This was a much closer game and Hinckley were able to keep the score low and tight making for a great play off. The final score was 8-5 to Ambleside. Overall it was an excellent day for all those involved and a great event to prepare for the new season.

For more details about the club visit www.hinckleyladiesnetball.co.uk Follow the club on twitter @HLNetballClub

Notes to editor:

Hinckley Ladies Netball Club was established in 1975, since then the club has grown to a membership of over 90 players. The club competes with six senior teams and three junior teams in the Coventry and Warwickshire Netball league, and one senior team in the Flexi League.

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