

# Kingston Diamonds Newsletter

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## Diamonds Premier

### Two more games for the Prens to finish out the season, and they had a chance to clinch their spot in the end of season playoffs.

First up was Nottingham, and the Diamonds needed a win in order to get into the playoffs. The game started well for the Diamonds and some excellent zone time and pressure lead to the opening goal, Beth Barwell firing home through traffic for 1-0 at 5.29. The home team kept up the good work through the rest of the period and were rewarded once again at 16.03 as Reagan Downing scooped the puck past Cramer for 2-0.

Early into the second period and Nottingham tightened the gap, Madison Wright scored her first of the game at 24.07 after a breakdown in coverage in the Diamonds defensive zone. The Diamonds regained their two goal cushion shortly after as Caren Callaghan scored for 3-1 at 26.37. Nottingham were not going to go quietly and another defensive mistake cost the Diamonds another goal, Madi Wright once again on target for 3-2. A thorn in the Diamonds' side, Madi Wright completed her hat-trick at 33.56 to tie the game as the Diamonds were clearly rattled.

Into the final period and Nottingham were determined on causing an upset despite the Diamonds being dominant in the offensive chances. Laura Richmond game the away side their first lead of the game at 48.29, prompting some chances from the Diamonds bench.

Some poor discipline was showing and the Diamonds had to kill off a 5 on 3 penalty but eventually their chances in the offensive zone began to pay off. Kiana Tait sped down the centre of the ice and wound her way past a couple of D-men before managing to shoot on target and tie the game at 53.28 giving the Diamonds a bit of life in this game.

The tension on the bench was palpable as the game clock started to run down and the Diamonds still needed at least one more goal. Thankfully that goal came with less than 2 minutes remaining in the game, Kiana Tait found Jo Cockerton wide open in the slot, who let go of a one-timer. Time seemed to come to a standstill as the Nottingham goalie made the save but somehow the puck bobbed out of her control and across the goal-line to give the Diamonds a tough victory and a place in the playoffs!

### Final Score Kingston 5 – 4 Nottingham

The final game before playoffs was a tough contest against Milton Keynes.

MK enjoyed the majority of chances in the first period and were the first to break the cling film as a scramble in front of net resulted in Rachael Clough burying the puck for 0-1 at 14.45.

In the second period they quickly doubled their lead on the powerplay as Kirsten Noble's shot from the point took an unfortunate deflection off a Diamonds D and past Charlotte Cook in net for 0-2 at 20.45. The Diamonds continued their unorganised play and really struggled to create any chances on the Falcons net and MK reaped the rewards just over half way through the period as Michelle Lyle added another at 31.18. A little over 4 minutes afterwards Rachael Clough scored her second of the game to add to the mountain hat the Diamonds had to climb at 35.51.

The Diamonds were slightly better in the third period but still way off the pace they needed to be at and once again, failed to test the MK netminder. MK finished up, in what was a pretty poor performance from the home team, as Madalaine Remington scored the 5<sup>th</sup> at 58.24 to put the game to bed.

The Prens know they need to be better if they are to stand a chance against Swindon next week in the playoff semi-final and have one last training session to put things right before the big weekend!

## Diamond U16s

### Having won the U16s North League the Diamonds had just one game scheduled in May.

The U16s were due to play Nottingham on 6<sup>th</sup> May, but Nottingham only managed to travel with 4 players, meaning that a challenge match went ahead instead. The girls mixed the sides and went head-to-head, with team White coming out victorious over team Blue!

The U16s now look to finish this season on a high as they will take on Bracknell in the National Playoff in Sheffield on 20<sup>th</sup> May.



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## **Diamonds Elite**

### **Another busy month for the Elites with 4 home games left in the season.**

First on the cards was a visit from Streatham and the Diamonds got off to a flying start, Kirsten Deighton opened the scoring just 2.44 into the game as a nice play from Scoon and Downing saw her in alone, firing high past the netminder for 1-0. Streatham were here to play through and tied the game at 4.34 as Jamie Endrizzi cleared up in front of the net for 1-1. Just over a minute later the Diamonds retook the lead as Reagan Downing found Holly Cornford for a nice shot from the point to give the Diamonds a lead that they would hold for the remainder of the period.

The rampant pace continued and Streatham drew things level once again at 22.47 this time through Isabell Whiteley. Just over half way through the game, the Diamonds took the lead for a third time, this one coming from Reagan Downing who found the rebound in the slot and fired cleanly past Cattel for 3-2 at 33.02. However, as with the previous goal Streatham responded almost immediately, their captain Fiona King on the spot to tie the game just 30 seconds after falling behind. The 3-3 score-line would remain, despite both teams trying everything to find a winner and the points were split after a well matched game.

### **Final Score Kingston 3-3 Streatham**

The following evening a tough task lie ahead as Bracknell made the trip north. A well drilled team, they looked extremely strong in the first period but the Diamonds defended valiantly to keep the score-board at 0-0 after the first period. The second period saw much of the same but this time the Diamonds couldn't keep the Queen Bees at bay, a powerplay helped them to open the scoring at 27.02 as Rachel Cartwright found the puck amidst a scramble and tucked it home. Bracknell doubled their lead with a penalty shot goal a few minutes later, Katherine Gale was hauled down on a breakaway and she converted the penalty shot with a nice move past a fully stretched Bolwell at 30.31.

The third period was a little closer to begin with, the diamonds did manage to test the Bracknell goaltender a few times but weren't able to create anything and the away team added another to their tally as Lucy Beal stepped out from behind the net, found a rebound and shot high into the net for 0-3 at 45.39. The Diamonds finally managed to break the shutout with just over three minutes remaining in the game, Beth Barwell squeezing the puck home as she was laid out on the ice. From there it seemed that the Diamonds collapsed and Bracknell scored a further two goal in the space of 27 seconds; Rachel Cartwright with her second at 57.25 and Christine Newman finishing up at 57.52. A slightly skewed score-line in the end but it's an indicator of the task that lies ahead as this is the team that the Diamonds will face in the playoffs.

### **Final Score Kingston 1- 5 Bracknell**

Sheffield were the next visitors to Hull and they knew that they must win the game to stand a chance of avoiding relegation. As expected the away side came out firing on all cylinders, desperate for the win, and they opened the scoring at 5.50 as Jodie Bloom was allowed to skate through the zone and fire home for 0-1. The Diamonds pushed back and were getting some decent chances, which paid off at 12.43, as Hannah Worthington made a great pass from behind the net to Reagan Downing out in front who fired past Donaghue to tie the game.

The second period saw no goals for either side despite pressure at both ends and some tense moment for both goalkeepers with Sheffield firing twice off the crossbar.

The third period was played in the same close manner and Sheffield re-took the lead at 52.14 as Hazel Taylor put the puck past Steeples, making for a tense and exciting finish.

The Diamonds were not going to be beaten here today and pushed with everything they had for the final 7 minutes, pulling the netminder for the extra attacker as they looked for the tying goal. They got it through their Captain with just 14 seconds left on the clock. Holly Cornford took matters into her own hands as she carried the puck down the left wing and looked as though she was going to skate round behind the goal, but as she crossed the goal line she lifted a wishful shot at the back of the goaltender and somehow managed to squeeze the puck into the net from the impossible angle to tie the game! With no time left for Sheffield to find another goal it was job done for the Diamonds who got a point and forced relegation upon Sheffield.

### **Final Score Kingston 2-2 Sheffield**

The final game of the regular season was upon us as Solihull made the trip North. Usually fairly closely matched with Solihull it seemed that this game would be no different. The Diamonds took the lead through Sarah Hutchinson at 5.09 from a nice play from Kirsten Deighton and Hannah Worthington. Solihull were getting good chances on the Diamonds net and it paid off as they tied the game at 16.10 with Katie Henry scooping the puck past Bolwell for 1-1.

Solihull took the lead early in the second period as Katie Henry scored her second of the game at 20.24. The Diamonds couldn't tie the game despite having a powerplay and then found themselves in some penalty trouble towards the end of the period. Beth Scoon was ejected from the game on a poor call after an awkward and unintentional collision with a Solihull forward, giving the Vixens a 5 minute powerplay. Then Hannah Worthington was shown the penalty box for roughing shortly after and Solihull capitalised on the 5 on 3 powerplay with Paige Dance scoring the third at 36.43.

A close third period couldn't bring a goal or two for the Diamonds and Solihull defended well to run down the clock on the victory, closing out the season for both teams.

The Elites will face Bracknell in their playoff semi-final and must be on top of the game to come away with a victory.

### **Final Score Kingston 1 -3 Solihull**



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