

Kingston Diamonds Newsletter

Issue 10

June 2017

Women's Trophy Weekend

This year's Women's Trophy took place on the weekend of 3rd/4th June 2017 as teams from across the country came together in the hunt for playoff glory in a great celebration of Women's Hockey.

The Diamonds Elite were playing in the 3rd game of the day on Semi-Final Saturday vs Bracknell Queen Bees. Prior to this the first Division 1 semi had seen Basingstoke advance to the final and the first Premier semi saw Streatham get the win.

Onto the important stuff as the Diamonds took on Bracknell in the first Elite semi-final.

The Diamonds struggled to get off the mark in the first period, despite an early powerplay and Bracknell opened the scoring at 10.46. With CJ Ashton sitting in the penalty box after a soft holding call, Abbie Sylvester struck on the powerplay to give the Queen Bees the lead.

Less than 2 minutes later Bracknell doubled their lead, as Natalie Aldridge scored at 12.12, assisted by GB captain Leanne Ganney. Bracknell pressured the Diamonds constantly through the rest of period, eventually outshooting them 26-6 and their work paid off as Rachel Cartwright made it 3-0 with a powerplay goal at 18.51, leaving the Diamonds with a huge mountain to climb.

The Diamonds came out with a much better start in the second, getting chances from the opening faceoff and limiting Bracknell to only a few of their own chances. Captain, Holly Cornford took matters into her own hands and got the Diamonds back into the game at 28.29 with a wonderful solo effort. She flew down the left wing, leaving the Bracknell defense stunned and backhanded the puck over Bracknell netminder, Relf, for an absolute worldie of a goal.

A little over 10 minutes later, Kingston found themselves on the powerplay, Bracknell's Alice Lamb sitting for two minutes for delaying of the game after an altercation in the corner and this time they made no mistake. Holly Cornford found Shannon Jones down near the goal line at the left of the Bracknell goal and Shannon fired a shot top-shelf from a hideous angle to put the game at 3-2.

You could see the excitement as the Diamonds regained belief that they could win this game.

The Diamonds continued to press for a game tying goal and pinned Bracknell in their own zone for the majority of the third period, including 1.34 of 6 on 5 as they pulled netminder Holly Steeples for the extra attacker. Bracknell bent but they did not break and the Diamonds just couldn't find another goal to force overtime and the game finished 3-2, with the Queen Bees securing their place in the final.

The girls should be extremely proud of how they performed in that game, down 3-0 after one period they could have crumbled but they showed awesome strength of character to pull it back and push the league winners right to the very end.

Captain Holly Cornford, who led by example all game, picked up a well-deserved 'Spirit of the Game' for the Diamonds.

The last few months have been a real test of depth for the Diamonds and they've shown great resilience. This performance shows that they can compete right at the top again and they can really kick on from here, over summer and next season, and bring the trophy home next year!

The rest of the day saw Bracknell Fire Bees (Division 1), Milton Keynes (Premier) and Solihull Vixens (Elite) win their games to punch their tickets to their respective finals.

The final Sunday of the season saw Bracknell run out Division One Champions, earning promotion to the Premier league next season, Milton Keynes beat Streatham for the Premier playoff honours and Bracknell Ice Bess won the U16 National Final vs Sheffield Shadows U16.

Congratulations to the Solihull Vixens who were victorious in the Elite final, knocking Bracknell off the podium and spoiling their chances of a club treble. The Vixens ran out 4-3 winners in a tight game and took home the Bill Britton Memorial Trophy, a great finale to end the Women's season.

Thank You!

Over the course of a season there are countless people who are involved with the club in some way or another, too many to name one-by-one so we'd like to say thank you to all of you!

The Kingston Diamonds would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved with the club this season. Thank you to all of our sponsors who have helped us continue to run smoothly and successfully, thank you to all the volunteers who give up their time to goal judge, or time-keep or manage the penalty boxes, without you our club (and many others playing out of Hull Arena) could not function and we really do appreciate the time you give up. Thanks to everyone who has come to support the Diamonds at any of the matches, and to those who have bought raffle tickets, every little helps and we really enjoy seeing new faces watching our games.

Thank you to our (team) of photographers; Baz Barwell, Rach Stork, Rob Hutchinson, Jo Cockerton, for capturing our games so brilliantly, you give us a medium on which to promote the sport and your photos are always fantastic!

A huge thank you to each and every one of the players who has pulled on a Diamonds shirt this season, a lot of you travel a long way to play for our little club but it means a great deal and we love you all!

Finally, the biggest thank you must go to Tim, Mike, Pam and Steve. Without you guys there are no coaches, no manager, (no one to keep Tim on the straight and narrow ;)) and no club; every single player appreciates everything you all do for the Diamonds, we are very lucky to have people that put in so much time and effort so that we can enjoy playing the game we all love, thank you.

At times throughout the season we've hit rough patches with each team but we have always made sure to 'Celly Hard' when those rough patches turn around. Below are some photos, taken by those mentioned above, of these times!

