

Kingston Diamonds Newsletter

Issue 3

November 2016

Diamonds U16s

The U16 also had a quiet month and have just one game in November, at home to the old rival, Sheffield.

After a great start to the season at Solway the week before, the U16 Diamonds hosted Sheffield Shadows U16s in the home opener of the season. To say it was the morning after bonfire night it didn't seem like the fireworks had ended, with several feisty exchanges between the Diamonds and Shadows in the early stages of the game.

The first period saw several chances for both teams but some good net minding in each net saw the shooters disappointed, until with 10 seconds left in the period Sheffield sprung a 2 on 0 attack on the Diamonds net and after a quick cross ice pass and one time shot, Sheffield had taken the lead.

The second period was again an even affair, with the Diamonds creating some good chances to get back into the game; the Diamonds took heart and played some great hockey.

The final period started with the Diamonds still only one goal behind, but less than 2 minutes into the period Sheffield struck again to double their lead. The Diamonds didn't give up and started to look the most likely to score the next goal, but then the very young and inexperienced referee decide he was going to be the centre of attention, handing out 22 mins in penalties to the Diamonds and 18 to the Shadows, most were gained in a minor fracas on the Diamonds blue line, where one of the dirtiest players in the league decided she was going to start a fight, only to be totally out matched by 5 very united Diamonds players. I'm sure it won't be the last time the Diamonds have to defend themselves this season in games against the Shadows.

Once the hockey started again our girls who looked the most likely to score, but once again the ref penalised the Diamonds, this time a body-checking minor for Martha Brown. Both teams put out their back-up net minders for the finally few moments and unfortunately Sheffield scored a 3rd goal on the powerplay.

Although the U16s lost 3-0, this was another good display from the Diamonds and shows what a great spirit we have in the team this season. With 3 more games against the Shadows this season I am sure we will be the ones taking the points in the next encounter.

Final Score Kingston 0-3 Sheffield

Diamonds Premier

With the Premier game in Slough being postponed due to the rink closure the Prems also only had a single game in the month of November, hoping that an away trip to Widnes would bring us that elusive first win!

Where do I start with this one? A mad first period which eventually cost us the game, started with some initial good play, with some chances for both teams.

The Diamonds sporting a large bench of players looked shocked as Widnes took the lead just 4 minutes into the period, after a player was left standing all alone on the back post, within 2 more minutes Widnes had doubled their lead after some confusion and lack of focus from the face-off. It didn't get much better as the Diamonds looked totally out of sorts. Two more soft goals conceded in the space of 90 seconds saw the wind totally knocked out of the Diamonds' sails. Following a brief calm period for the battered Diamonds, there was a glint of light, as CJ Ashton finished in fine style to open the Diamonds account, from a neat pass by Hannah Gibson. That light unfortunately went out 22 seconds later as Widnes were allowed to skate the full length of the ice unchallenged to regain a 4 goal cushion. Finally the period finished and the Diamonds gathered by the bench to regroup.

The second period saw the Diamonds start to play some good hockey, well there was nothing to lose now so why not, and finally the Diamonds looked like scoring on nearly every attack. After a battle in front of the Wild net, Chloe Matthews did her thing and banged home a loose puck, to give some hope to the Diamonds bench. Then, as always seems to be the case for the Prem team this season, we ran into a ref who really wasn't sure of the rules. After a decent body check from Reagan Downing which left the Wild player flat on her back, the ref decided to call a 2+10 check to the head. Really, has he seen how small Reagan is? She would have needed a step ladder to reach the girls head.

Another good penalty kill, and a steady end to the period, saw the Diamonds still 3 goals behind. That didn't stop the Diamonds fight back. With Chloe Matthews sitting a 2 minute penalty for crosschecking, and Reagan Downing fresh from her holiday in the penalty box the Diamonds set about the penalty kill again. Looking quite strong on the PK (we get plenty of practice at it), Reagan stepped up and fired home the Diamonds 3rd goal. Widnes started to look shaky, and it wasn't long before Hannah Gibson finished off a good move from Jemma Brown, who was playing her first senior game, to bring the game within 1 goal. The Diamonds looked like they were going to pull this one out of the bag. Widnes called their time out with 8 minutes to go to steady themselves, and this payed off, as they started on yet another power play. This time the Diamonds weren't quite as tight and allowed the point player to get a shot away. The shot took a nasty deflection on its way towards the Diamonds net, which left Charlotte between the pipes with no chance. The puck crossed the line and put an abrupt stop to the Diamonds comeback.

After an awful first period and probably the best period this season played in the 2nd it was disappointing not to pick up at least a point. Something to build on, but we have got to stop giving teams easy leads early in the game. We have plenty of time to work on this as our next game isn't until late February, maybe Santa can bring us some luck for Christmas!

Final Score Widnes 6-4 Kingston

Diamonds Elite

Following a hectic October the Elites have a quiet month with just the one game, a short road trip down to Sheffield to take on the Shadows.

A week after the U16s took on the Sheffield Shadows it was the Elite's turn, this time in Sheffield. Games between the Diamonds and the Shadows are usually close and nasty games, and the Diamonds didn't disappoint.

The Diamonds took the game to Sheffield from the opening puck drop, standing them up in the neutral and forechecking deep into the Shadows zone. After exchanging a couple of penalties each in the first 2 minutes the game settled into one way traffic, with the Diamonds creating chances that were fended off by the Sheffield net minder. As the period bubbled along nicely in favour of the Diamonds it was our new signing, Aimee Baldwin, playing her first Elite game who broke the deadlock, finishing off a nice rebound after Sam Bolwell in the Sheffield net failed to handle a shot. The period ended 1-0 to the Diamonds, but it could have been a lot more.

The Diamonds started the 2nd period even harder than the first, and it wasn't long before Shannon Jones doubled the Diamonds lead, finishing off a neat move from CJ Ashton. With all the Diamonds playing well Sheffield had no answer to the onslaught, and as the game passed the half way point, Kirsten Deighton found herself unmarked in front of the Sheffield net and poked home the puck after some good work from Reagan Downing and Carla Clark.

Taking a 3-0 lead into the final period the Diamonds looked like a slick team, probably one of the better performances against Sheffield for a number of years. One of the younger members of the Shadows decided to give everyone some entertainment, as she clipped Beth Scoon in the head with her shoulder as she exited the Shadows zone. Not being one to allow anyone to get the better of her, Beth chased her down the ice to try and cut her off from going to the net, but then the total inexperience of the Sheffield youngster showed as she tried to cut back and step inside Scoon. The next thing the Shadows player was looking at was the ceiling of the rink, as Beth hit her with one of the best checks seen for a long time, even the ref said how good it was. It took a little while for the shadow to realise what day of the week it was, but she got up and went back to the bench.

Once the penalty was killed off, the Diamonds went back to work in seeking out another goal, which came after a fine move between Natalie Davies and Shannon Jones, Shannon collecting her 2nd goal of the game as she outwitted Sam Bolwell and sat her on her backside as she rounded her to fire into an open net.

With a minute left in the game it looked like stand in net minder Charlotte Cook would be getting a shut-out, but unfortunately Amy Campbell latched on to a rebound with 54 seconds to go, by the celebration from Campbell you'd have thought she had just won the Stanley Cup.

A comprehensive 4-1 win to the Diamonds sets them up nicely for the next game against Guildford in Hull in early December.

Final Score Sheffield 1-4 Kingston

Upcoming Fixtures

03.12.16 - Elite vs Guildford @ Home
11.12.16 - U16 vs Solway @ Home



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