



U15A and B National Schools Lacrosse 2024

By Mrs Mason-McLeod (Director of Sport)

U15A team report

The U15A team finally got to head to Aldershot for their National Competition on Monday 11th March after a 1 year break due to poor weather conditions.

The team had been working hard all season and had had plenty of success in their county tournament last term and across all their friendly Saturday fixtures. After arriving the students spent their settling in time visiting the various retailers stocking up on merchandise and any other items they had set their sights on! Shopping completed and on to tournament preparations with the first game starting at 10am against Haileybury, last year's U15 National Champions.

The students were anxious and it took a while for the warm-up to come together, however, the girls started the tournament ready and raring to go with an almighty BGS roar before stepping foot on the pitch. BGS made an impressive start with a goal from Charlotte Proctor in the first 20 seconds of the game. It was hoped this would ease their nerves and increase the confidence across the team but sadly it seemed to have the opposite effect and BGS struggled to convert any of their numerous opportunities in front of goal. It did look like BGS were going to take the 1-0 win but sadly Haileybury had a fast break and received a penalty for a major foul within the 11m. Haileybury took this opportunity and what followed immediately after was the hooter to end the game. BGS went on to play Benenden in their next match and they rose to the challenge of facing a very strong school. The nerves that were on display in the first game had almost disappeared and the team played the outstanding lacrosse they had been doing all season. The final score here was 4-2 to BGS.

Onto the next game against Godolphin. This was frantic and certainly one for the spectators with plenty of turnovers and end to end play. Unfortunately, BGS could keep Godolphin's impressive attackers away from the goal and the final score was a 2-3 loss. The last game was against a very strong St Georges team who hadn't lost all morning. Again, BGS battled hard and remained in the game throughout but St Georges converted their chances which BGS struggled to do with the final result being a 3-1 win to St Georges. Frustratingly this meant BGS finished 4th in their group, with only the top 3 progressing on to the Championship. Had their first game against Haileybury been a win BGS would have sat in 2nd position qualifying them for the Top 16 championship playoffs. Sadly, it wasn't meant to be this year but the girls should be proud of the amazing season they have had as there have been some incredible moments.

U15A Team: Rekha Kambli, Lara Spajic, Isla Renfrew, Sophie Thomson, Nicole Kilby, Hatty Parry, Milly Perry, Charlotte Proctor, Zofia Wylezek, Bella Holt, Rhianne Noor, Jeanie Morris, Hayley Konzo, Millie Peacock, Imogen Blower and Harri Scarr

U15B team report

The U15B team had their tournament postponed by a week due to the pitches at Aldershot being unplayable. This meant they travelled to Wycombe Abbey on the 19th March for their National Tournament.

The team was full of enthusiasm and questions about how the event works as for many of the players this was their first experience of a National Competition. This U15B team knows what hard work looks like and straight away it was clear that they were going to have a good day at this competition as their warm up was full of communication and quality. BGS had a tough group with Berkhamsted, St Swithuns (who were U15A National Champions) and St Georges.

The knockout rounds were worked out depending on where you finished in the group so as a team the girls understood that every game played was vitally important to ensure BGS were given a good draw in the knockout rounds. First game was against Berkhamsted and BGS went out strong and this game was sensational with end-to-end play and some impressive defensive work from BGS and goalkeeper Suhki Sahota. It was very even and the end result was 3-3 which was a fantastic start to the tournament. Next BGS faced St Swithuns who we felt was going to be our toughest match having watched them play against St Georges in a break in play.

BGS went out strong and secured plenty of centre draw possession. However, St Swithuns were strong and BGS found it difficult to break them down. St Swithuns took two early chances in the first half which put BGS 0-2 down with only 7 minutes left to play. It was at this moment it was clear that this U15B team were made of strong stuff. You could see the grit and determination enter every single player and they worked tirelessly not just as individuals but as a team. The girls fought until the final hooter and the end result was 2-2 overall! Two games in and two strong performances with 6 points on the table. One more win and the team knew they could secure 2nd place.

The final match against St Georges was a cracker and BGS impressed again with another great team performance winning this 4-2. BGS went into the knockout rounds against Wycombe Abbey (the home team) knowing that a win would progress them forwards into the top 8 Cup competition and a loss would send them into the bottom 8 plate event. As a team they knew what they wanted and they took to the pitch seeking nothing less than a win. Their best performance of the day by far secured them a 3-0 win and the excitement and sense of achievement was wonderful to see.

In the 1/4 final BGS faced Benenden who had won their group and had not lost a match all day. BGS gave it everything but Benenden just had the edge in their play. Their movement and stick skills proved extremely difficult to cope with and quite quickly BGS went 3-0 down. However, BGS had a proven track record of being the comeback queens and managed to get two goals in but sadly ran out of time to find a third. BGS lost the game 2-3 and although the team were disappointed, they recognised that Benenden were just better on the day and they had given everything. Finishing in the top 8 Nationally is a huge achievement, coupled with the fact that this team have barely lost a game all season and were also crowned county champions in November 2023. It's been a phenomenal year and we are excited about the year 10's joining the senior teams next season.

U15B Team: Sukhi Sahota, Neva Grimshaw, Bana Shahid, Chistina Hosseini, Maya Ramani, Erin Ferris, Izzy Howard, Connie Horn, Kat Wollard, Zena Breed, Zuzanna Wylezek, Jette Schreyer, Emily Borner, Ellie Jones, Olivia Fox and Simrah Khan