

# U14 Inter-Regionals Tournament '23.

Walsall, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December.



The U14 SER Inter-regional team, with all-female coaching and support staff!

## **SQUAD:**

1. Millie Mills
2. Ashlin Fraser
3. Caitlin Rajanyagam
4. Cassia Davies
5. Harriet Hughes
6. Imari Holton
7. Alice Ross
8. Idun Manning
9. Maia Middleton
10. Melita Grigaliunaite
11. Lucy Paterson
12. Lottie Crabb
13. Aimee Fleming

## **COACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF:**

Lauren Hand (Head Coach)  
Katy Ross (Assistant Coach)  
Becci Henderson (Team Manager)  
Emma Simpson (SER Referee)

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the U14 SER girls team travelled to Walsall to compete in the Inter-regional competition. For the vast majority of these players, it was the first time they were playing in competitive matches, never mind a national tournament!!!!

#### **NORTH EAST STEELERS VS SOUTH EAST:**

The match began with both teams cancelling each other out. The NE broke the deadlock 2 minutes into the game. Cue a brilliant streak of attacking play from SER, with a brace from Maia, and one each for Aimee and Ashlin, and some great saves in goal by Millie, to create a 3 goal cushion. NE pulled one back, but then gave a penalty away, which Maia converted beautifully. She bagged herself her 4<sup>th</sup> goal 20 seconds from halftime taking SER into the second half 2-6. The second half started much like the first, with both sides turning the ball over midfield. Tireless defending by Alice, tracking the ball back, and intercepting Steelers' attacks, kept them at bay. Ashlin was the first to find the back of the net, with a great shot, quickly followed by two more goals from Maia. Alice gave herself a break from defence to bag herself a goal, and Caitlin scored her first over goal in a match on her SER debut.

**Final Score: Steelers 3 SER 11. Scorers: Maia 6, Ashlin 2, Aimee 1, Alice 1, Caitlin 1.**

#### **WEST MIDLANDS WARRIORS VS SOUTH EAST:**

Again, it was a slow-burner of a match, with the Warriors finding their feet first and opening the score with a two quick goals. The SER fightback began with a goal each from Ashlin and Maia. West Mids went a goal ahead, SER pulled it back, with a well worked goal by Alice. West Mids pulled one goal ahead just shy of half time, making the score 4-3. SER took control of the second half, with Maia scoring 2 and Ashlin bagging one, to put SER ahead for the first time in the match. It then became an agonising tit-for-tat match, West Mids pulled the game back to a draw, then Ashlin completed her hattrick to pull SER ahead, only to see the advantage disappear within 40 seconds. Aimee scored with 15 seconds left on the clock. With 7 seconds left, West Mids scored to level the game.

**Final Score: West Mids 8 SER 8: Scorers, Ashlin 3, Maia 3, Alice 1, Aimee 1.**

#### **SOUTH WEST VS SOUTH EAST:**

SER started strongly against a well-drilled SW side. The defence worked tirelessly, with all players putting in a decent shift. Aimee opened the tally, with Maia adding another within a minute. SER played a very organised hard press, which frustrated the SW squad. SW pulled one back, but Aimee extended the lead once again. A late goal by SW saw the first half end SW 2 – SE 3. The second half was the polar opposite of the first. The SER girls, having worked so hard in the previous two and a half matches, had just ran out of steam. That said, the first half was impressive and should serve as a reminder to the girls that they have the potential, with more match practice, to compete against the best!

**Final Score: South West 8, South East 3: Scorers, Aimee 2, Maia 1.**

## **IRELAND VS SOUTH EAST:**

This was the first match involving 5 minute quarters, and it happened to be against an U14s national development squad, who had been training together, regularly, for months. Unsurprisingly, the SER girls let their nerves get to them in the first quarter, and were soon down by 5 goals, with Maia managing to pull one back. The second quarter was a wonderful performance. The girls rediscovered their hard press skills, and they employed the tactic perfectly, initiating a flurry of exclusions from the physical Irish side. Lucy Paterson scored SERs only goal of the second quarter, but SER defended against Ireland so well, that Ireland failed to notch up a single goal!! Similarly to the previous game, the SERs match practice and match stamina was not up to the organised Irish side. The Irish came back strong in the final two quarters and, despite a goal in each remaining quarter from Maia and Ashlin, the SER lost 18 goals to 4. Despite the score, there were a lot of positives from the match.

**Final Score: Ireland 18, South East 4: Scorers, Ashlin 2, Lucy 1, Maia 1.**



Despite the girls having never played together before, they had great team spirit, and were keen to learn and support each other. Congratulations to Maia on winning MVP.