

## **Basingstoke “A” 10 Vs City of Southampton “A” 17**

Written by Sarah Hickey

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### **A valiant defensive performance by Basingstoke “A” team**

BASINGSTOKE “A” 10 Vs City of Southampton “A” 17

19th May 2009

Basingstoke mens “A” team hosted rivals the City of Southampton mens “A” team on the 19th May 2009 in an explosive Hampshire league fixture.

City of Southampton, recent winners of the “Lady Richmond Brown” tournament, as expected got off to good start with the opening goal. Basingstoke however were determined to keep the pace with the favourites - goals from Allan Fairhead and “Man of the match” Trace Morgan resulted in Basingstoke just two goals behind the City of Southampton.

Going into the second quarter Basingstoke displayed a solid defence successfully defending 3 out of 4 of Southampton’s man ups, an effort led by Pavel Grishim who had a solid game in goal. A vital penalty was awarded to Basingstoke and scored by Allan Fairhead bringing both sides level at 6-6, however Southampton immediately responded taking advantage of any gaps within the Basingstoke defence to regain the lead. A valiant team effort by Basingstoke along side goals from Trace Morgan and Chris Wintle resulted in the gap between the two teams remaining at just two goals going into the third quarter.

The third quarter proved to be the toughest for Basingstoke as they received a number of exclusions, however Captain Steve Fairhead stopped Southampton dominating the quarter by scoring a text book lob.

The tempo picked up in the final quarter demonstrating the importance of this match to both teams. Basingstoke’s top scorer of the match, Allan Fairhead scored a further two goals. Unfortunately this was not enough and the experience of the City of Southampton shined through with the score at the final whistle Basingstoke 10 – City of Southampton 17.

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Basingstoke's captain Steve Fairhead led by example resulting in an excellent performance by the whole team. Newbies to the Basingstoke team Aaron Croucher, Toby Hansen and Greg Knight all played well showing great determination. With the less experienced players improving and gaining experience with each match, the future looks bright for this Basingstoke team.

Coach: Gerry Lay

Team: Steve Fairhead, Dave Bush, Pavel Grishin, Ian Mason, Aaron Croucher, Gav Bridger, Chris Wintle, Gerard Mandan, Dave Trewella, Trace Morgan, Allan Fairhead, Greg Knight, Toby Hansen

Scorers: Chris Wintle 1, Trace Morgan 3, Steve Fairhead 1, Allan Fairhead 5

Exclusions: Ian Mason 2, Dave Bush 1, Gerard Mandan 2, Trace Morgan 1, Steve Fairhead 2, Greg Knight 2