



## GBFUA Floorball Youth League Fireballs Match Report - 30<sup>th</sup> November

By Team Coach, Rami Rantala, FUFC

Tournament T2 in Gloucester turned out to be as difficult as predicted for our relatively inexperienced Farnham Fireballs team. We played against two very tough teams in T2 and altogether Fireballs have now met all three top teams once already in this season. Unfortunately we have lost all these 3 meetings and we need to learn from them.

Because of the level of the teams we played in T2, some players were given more time on the rink than others, the more experienced players got more responsibility. I decided to sub players individually instead of changing the full striking line-up each time. This was only because I wanted our more experienced players to support our younger players and avoid too many junior players on at the same time. Overall our target again is to be ready for next summer's National Youth Cup like in last season. In order to finish in top 3 in Nationals we definitely need to be able to beat one of the teams we played against in T2.

### **Fireballs Arrows 5 - 8**

The first entry in the match record was Fireballs 2 min bench penalty due to incorrect hit. The Fireballs were able to kill the penalty time efficiently and Arrows were not able to create any proper power play at all. Suddenly Arrows found themselves playing Box Play with one of their players sitting on penalty bench. Then Santtu found Jack with his pass, Jack's shot found the net and it was 1-0 to the Fireballs. Soon after Oli scored from Alex K's assist, 2-0 to Fireballs. The turning point in the first half was Oli's 2 min bench penalty for incorrect distance from free hit (please everyone remember the rule, 3 metres from the ball). During this penalty the Arrows got back into the game and scored their first goal. Soon after they equalised and scored two further goals. Prior to the Arrows third goal our defenders did not release the ball quickly and accurately enough. Arrows striker stole the ball and the shot went in. Our opponent's 4th goal was a classic 1-2 attack. There was very little our first time goalie Alex H. could have done to stop the ball going in. In half time Arrows were winning 4-2.



The second period had a promising start. Santtu passed the ball to Peter, whose shot went in. The gap was only 1 goal again. However soon after an Arrows striker ran straight down the middle, Thomas tried

to stop him and unluckily Thomas's stick hit their player's stick and Penalty Shot for Arrows was awarded by the referees. Arrows scored making it 5-3 to them. From here Arrows gained some confidence and scored 2 more goals quickly before Santtu managed to score one for Fireballs. Both teams scored once more, Peter for Fireballs from Jack's assist, and the match finished 8-5. This match was also a strong proof that Sam, Angus and Louis can compete on this level if they really put their minds to it. The Arrows badly wanted to win as they did not play their subs at all until they were 3 goals up. That should tell you how seriously they are taking their League meetings with us.

### **Fireballs - Dragons 1 - 9**

Fireballs started the match well. Our young team was able to play good floorball compared to more experienced Dragons team for almost half of the first period. But then Dragons' players realised that by adding speed, strength and quick passing they will be able to dominate the match. Dragons scored altogether 9 goals against Fireballs who took just one, this was a nice shot from Alex K after Oli's pass. There were some very difficult periods when Alex H. saved a shot after shot and the Fireballs were not able to clear the ball or get it under control. The match was refereed by Hawks and as a coach, I have to say that there were at least a couple of occasions when Dragons #22 should have been sent to penalty bench for roughness or tackling from the back. However refs did nothing and allowed this sort of rough play. The learning point in here is that in the future we need to be able to match to opponent's roughness, grow 'a bit bigger' and this way to show everybody that rough play will not affect to us.

### **Key learning points from the tournament:**

- 1)** Quick ball control. It looked to me that we are behind in this area compared to Arrows and Dragons. When we are trying to run with the ball when we do not have it under control. Often this results in us loosing the ball. Also we need to learn to use our whole body when receiving and releasing the ball, bending our legs and flexing our bodies.
- 2)** Look for passes. After receiving the ball many of us are trying to score by themselves. This can be seen as a positive but not if there are one or more opponents just front of us. We should try to learn to hold the ball and wait until other team mates can find a better position to receive a pass. Obviously this means that our players who don't have the ball must quickly try to find a better position, running to lose their 'markers' if necessary.
- 3)** Positional play. Again sometimes we were wandering around the rink not keeping our own position on the pitch. We saw a few goals scored against us for this reason. We still are not disciplined enough especially in our own half of the rink. We will practise this during the next few training sessions. I have to admit that I did not help the situation in couple of times when I sent a player to play in different position than they were used to, my apologies! However it's not unusual to need a player to play in more than one position during a match.

### **Match Record (T2):**

Santtu	1+2
Peter	2+0
Alex K	1+1
Jack	1+1 (2min penalty)
Oli	1+1 (2min penalty)
Thomas	(2min penalty)

