

## **Womens 1st Division**

Last weekend saw us play our second game in the Knockout Cup. Manurewa were our opponents who have beaten us twice in the league this season. Terrible conditions dictated throughout most of the match with a muddy pitch and high winds. We were fast out of the blocks and quickly took control of the game and were soon ahead through some fine passing which enabled Mahalia O'Connor (our youngest player of 15yrs) to complete the move and score from close range. Soon after we went 2 nil up through a fine individual shot from approx 20 yards from Tayla Day. We seemed to be cruising and perhaps the girls thought it was going to be easy from here on in, but conditions were not going to allow that and we lost our concentration and our positional play which allowed Manurewa to pull a goal back which was taken well by their Centre Forward. Half Time score was 2 - 1 to us. The girls were told at half time that they would have to dig deep as the rain and wind was now in our faces and we needed to keep the ball on the deck and play to feet.

As expected Manurewa came at us straight from the restart and were soon level again through their Centre Forward. Tayla Day restored our lead on the hour after her first shot was saved by their keeper, but only rebounded to Tayla for her to make sure the second time. We then knew that we were in a game which could go either way and we needed to hold the lead. Tayla completed her hat-trick with the help of a great pass from midfield by Courtney Warren, Tayla ran on to it, pushed the ball passed a defender and slotted the ball to the left of the advancing keeper. Lee-Anne Hawkins completed a team performance with a fifth goal when she shot in off the post from just inside the penalty area.

A complete team performance saw us see the game to its conclusion which was a 5 - 2 victory. A special mention to Tayla for her 3 goals, also for Elisabeth Takeri for stepping up from the U17's to play Centre Back and to our Player of the Day Sela Corbett who took control of the midfield and showed us the way forward.

As I have mentioned before every girl played very well and are to be congratulated accordingly. We certainly have come a long way since the start of the season but still have much room for improvement.

We have Lynn Avon this weekend in the league, who are sitting pretty at the top of the tree. I am confident that we will be able to give them a better game than we gave them at Ken Maunder Park earlier in the season.

Coach: Mark Day

Manager: Allyssa Morris