



# Girls' Hockey

## 1st XI

Ruby Wilson

Our season started rapidly with a friendly pre-season tournament at Wesley College, where we first played together with our new team, full of some new faces and lots of talent.

Back to regular training at Wednesday games and Thursday afternoons, we quickly bonded and became friends and not just teammates. The Super League was right around the corner and nerves were starting to rise as the 1XI pulled a difficult pool group.

Our first match was home against Coleraine Grammar School. Ruby Wilson, as captain of the 1XI led the girls out onto the pitch for our first competitive game of the season. With wins against both Coleraine and Royal School Dungannon, we were full of smiles. Next to play the BA side was the Royal School, Armagh, which is always a hard match. However we held our own and managed to come out of the game with a draw, placing second in our Super League pool. The BA girls were into the Quarter finals of the Super League and waited anxiously to see who we were going to face, while we continued to train with great determination.

Finally Saturday arrived and unfortunately it was not our day against Rainey, as our Super League journey was cut short. However we were proud of how we had played and we knew that it was time to focus on the Schools' Cup. After having an excellent Super League run, we found ourselves a bye straight into the 3rd Round and also won home territory for our first School Cup game, which gave us a huge amount of support against the rough Ballyclare High School side. With fabulous goals from Mya Gray and Pippa Wilson, we booked ourselves a spot in the quarter finals. With extra training sessions to perfect short corners, we were ready for our next game.

Once again we received a home game against Friends' School, this time on a late Tuesday night. Tensions in the



changing room before the match were high, but we settled our minds and played with determination that we belonged in the Schools' Cup Semi Finals. It was a close match with a 1-0 full time score, with Abbi Harrison being the one to find the backboard on a short corner, gaining us a ticket to the Semi Finals where once again we were to face Royal School, Armagh- our local rivals. With supporter buses booked, ribbons in hair and fake tan on (it's a must) the morning eventually arrived when the whole school came to back the Girls' 1XI Hockey at Playball, Stormont.

Unfortunately, the Schools' Cup game didn't go how we had hoped, but we held our heads high and thanked all our supporters and our coaches: Neil Madeley, Mrs Todd, Sam Farson and Julie Sally for all of their commitment in helping us get so far. We enjoyed every moment of school girl hockey this year and have made so many memories and unforgettable experiences.



Pippa Wilson and Mya Gray





# Girls' Hockey

## 2nd XI

Darcey Milligan

What a season it has been! From the start, the enthusiasm of Banbridge Academy Girls' 2XI was shown in every match that was played, with wins over Coleraine, Bloomfield College, Sullivan, Dromore High and Royal School Dungannon. After the appointment of new coach Richard Glover, training proved to be very beneficial- building up fitness (alongside very early Monday morning strength and conditioning!), sharpening basics and rehearsing set pieces. The team proved to have plenty of potential for the upcoming season, as there were experienced players from the previous year as well as new emerging ones.

Starting off the season with a strong 7-0 win against Coleraine Grammar allowed the team to gain confidence in one another, and it was clear from then that everyone played well with each other. After convincingly winning all of the friendly matches that followed and keeping clean sheets from our amazing goalies (Leah Rodgers and Jasmine Magowan- Balfour).

November 24th came faster than we had anticipated- it was our first match in the McDowell Cup against Ballyclare Secondary. Nerves were high that afternoon, but with everyone playing strongly as a team and supporting one another, decisions and passes secured us a 8-0 win (goals from Ciara Patton X2, Ellie cousin X2, Zara McCormick, Maia Crawford, May Campbell and Rebekah Baker). The next match in the McDowell Cup was up next- against one of our toughest opponents yet of the season, Methodist College. With a score of 2-2 at the final whistle, we unfortunately lost in a nail biting run-in decider.



However, we did not let this dampen our spirits as we used this match to target what we needed to focus on in training. The quarter final of the McDowell Shield was up next against Bloomfield. We were determined and felt a lot of pressure during this match. Much to our delight, it resulted in the final score being 8-0. Congratulations to Ciara Patton after scoring a hat-trick, Maia Crawford (scoring two), Rebecca Baker, Rebecca Walker and Ellie Cousins for scoring also.

Travel to Lurgan Junior High for a close semi final in the McDowell Shield against Wallace came next. Blasting my speaker whilst on the bus, singing away and braiding each other's hairs, reflects how close we were as a team and we did not just want to win for ourselves, but for each other. With butterflies in our stomachs, we were ready to give blood, sweat and tears on that pitch. The sun was shining brightly in each team's eyes, and with both teams having strong performances, the final score was 0-0, taking it to extra time. As the format was silver goal, Banbridge had many chances but couldn't get the final touch to edge ahead. Here we were again for another

round of run ins!

Five brave players volunteered to take the run-ins and by the end, both teams were still level and it went to sudden death. Unfortunately we missed and Wallace had won. Although we knew it was the end of our season, we were all very disappointed and some tears were shed, but when we reflected back we were so proud of our performances and for the girls who had put themselves forward for the run-ins both times in the season.

On a personal note I would like to say a big thank you to all the girls for making it truly a season I will never forget. The laughs and stories we shared made our hockey that extra bit special. This was a team of talented and skilled girls, who I'm sure will go on to achieve great things in their hockey careers.

Finally, I would like to say special thanks to Miss Anderson, Miss Sprat, Richard and Julie for their continued encouragement, support and dedication to girls' hockey. Without you all, this season wouldn't have been possible!





# Girls' Hockey

## 3rd XI

R. Dobson

The 3XI kicked the season off with a friendly match against Friends' School Lisburn. Despite most of the girls never having played on a team together before, we put up a good fight. However Friends' fielded a strong well-drilled team and won 2-0. We didn't let the score dampen our spirits but instead used it to target what we needed to focus on in training. The following weekend we were up against Methody and came away with our first win as a team, 2-0.

Shortly after the girls had an away game against Sullivan Upper, which was another friendly and we came away with a 2-0 win. The first goal was scored by Cara Purdy, after being set up beautifully by Abbie McCormick. The girls were then able to win a short corner. The ball was injected to the top of the D where Lucy Thompson played an amazing straight strike, successfully securing our second goal of the match. Player of the match was Eimear Wilson who had some great tackles and was a massive part of ensuring we didn't concede any goals, along with goalkeeper Imogen Hunter.

Our biggest win of the season was against Dromore High on home turf, with us winning 5-0. The first quarter started off strong, with two goals being scored by Lucy Thompson and Cara Purdy. Going into the second quarter spirits were high and the girls were able to win a short corner. The ball was injected to the top of the D, where it was then passed to the back post where Megan McPolin had a lovely deflection and secured a third goal for the team. In the third quarter the attack was strong, however Dromore's defence put up a good fight and didn't allow us to get any goals. In the fourth quarter the girls were starting to get tired but didn't give up and were able to secure two more goals, which were scored by Lucy Thompson and Megan McPolin. After a fantastic game and scoring two goals for the team, Megan McPolin was the player of the match.

Our first round of the Cup followed a few



weeks later against Strabane. After the hour and a half journey to Strabane and quite a few girls feeling travel sick, we were unsure of how the match would go but nonetheless we put up a tough fight. The first and second quarter were very equal between the two teams with each team having roughly the same number of chances at getting a goal, however, no one scored. The score was 0-0 at half time, but the girls came back out showing great determination and at the end of the third quarter Megan McPolin scored. Going into the fourth quarter the score was 1-0 to us and the girls were feeling confident of a win. Strabane had a good few chances at a goal but were unsuccessful and the score remained 1-0 to Banbridge when the final whistle went. April McFarlane was player of the match.

After Christmas, we headed into the

second round of the Cup against Friends' School, Lisburn. We knew that they were a strong team, as we had previously lost to them at the start of the season, however, we went out and gave it our all. There were some great saves and defending from the Banbridge girls with a few chances at a goal, but unfortunately we were unsuccessful and lost 4-0 to a tough team. Regardless of not making it further in the Cup, we all had a fun season together and looked forward to the next season.

A big thank you to Mrs Spratt, Miss Anderson, Mrs Todd, Julie Sally and Richard Glover for their continuous hard work and time spent coaching us throughout the season and to all the girls too, who put in their best efforts in all our matches and every week in training.





# Girls' Hockey

## 4th XI

The 4th XI season started with a lot of enthusiasm and energy as everyone was excited to be back at hockey. Numbers at regular training grew and grew, showing the dedication to learning new skills and teamwork. We started off strong with a great team gaining confidence on the pitch. After honing their skills in friendly matches, the season high came when the team made it to the Semi Final of the 4th XI Cup.

Unfortunately, they were defeated by a strong Armagh side, but they took the positives from it knowing they had grown as a team throughout the season. Morale was still high, and under the guidance of Richard Glover and Miss McCullough, everyone continued as a team, playing friendlies, and putting lots of effort into practice.



Overall, it was a great and fun season for the 4th XI team with an eagerness to continue playing in the season to come.



**TH TOTAL HOCKEY**

Web: [total-hockey.com](http://total-hockey.com)

Tel: 028 4066 2684

Email: [sales@total-hockey.com](mailto:sales@total-hockey.com)

Total Hockey 19 Bridge Street, Banbridge BT32 3JL





# Girls' Hockey

## U14A

### Summary of the Season

- Win against Coleraine 1-0.
- Draw (1-1) against Royal School, Armagh.
- Win (2-1) against Clounagh Junior High School.
- Win against Larne in the second round of the Junior Cup (6-1).
- Win (5-0) against Stratheran.
- Win (2-0) against Friends' School (third round of Cup).
- Win (3-0) against Belfast High in the quarter finals of the Cup.
- Win (2-1) against B.R.A (2 goals from Mollie Tumilty)
- Win against Wallace (1-0)final (1 goal Sophie Tate) 5 nil win against Killicomaine
- Beat rsd 3-2

### JSAI

Drew 0-0 with Crescent  
 2-1 win against Kilkenny  
 1 nil loss against Salerno  
 1 nil win against Beaufort  
 Girls' Hockey: U14a

The girls' u14a team had their first game of the season against Coleraine Grammar School winning 1 nil. Continuing our preparations for the Junior Cup, we played against Armagh and CJHS and came away with 1 tight draw and a 2-1 win. We then had our first Cup game in the second round against Larne Grammar School. The girls all played super, and we achieved a 6-nil win. We then progressed to the third round against Friends'; it was a tight game in the first half, but we broke through in the second half scoring 2 goals to take the victory, which boosted us on to the quarter final.



The squad then travelled to Belfast High School to compete for a place in the semi-final. We started the game strong and with lots of possession, resulting in us leading 2 nil at half time and then scoring another one to make it 3 nil, which allowed us to progress onto the semis. In the preparation match for our semi, the girls came out with a strong 5 nil win against Strathearn.

Next up was the semi-final, where it was a very tight game against a strong B.R.A side, but the girls came through with a 2-nil victory with Mollie Tumilty scoring both goals to secure us a spot in the final. It was finally the day of the Ulster Junior Cup Final, where we faced Wallace in a cracking game. The girls started the game nervously in the first half, but quickly found their feet. After only 5 minutes in the second half, Sophie Tate scored the only goal of the match and the girls held the game out to win the Mid Ulster Junior Cup.

Following our successes in the Ulster Junior Cup the squad travelled down to Dublin to compete in the June Smith,

All Irelands. Our first game was against Crescent College. We started the game well with lots of possession and chances, but we couldn't find the back of the net, meaning the game ended in a 0-0 draw. There was a tight turnaround before our next game against Kilkenny where the girls played superbly to get a 2-1 victory, with goals scored by Katie Leslie and Ruby Johnson.

Our next game was against Salerno, where the girls dominated the game but against the run of play, we conceded a goal and couldn't get one back. The final game of the day was against the host Loreto Beaufort, where the girls picked themselves up from their defeat winning the game 1 nil-with a goal scored by Katie Leslie. Overall the girls placed 2nd bringing an end to a fantastic season!

<b>Games Played:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Goals Scored:</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Goals Conceded:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Wins:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Draws:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Losses:</b>	<b>1</b>





# Girls' Hockey

## All Ireland Junior Schoolgirl Championship April 2023

Banbridge Academy Girls hockey have had a season to remember with the 1st XI getting into the Schools' Cup Semi Final and other senior teams doing well in their own competitions. The Junior Hockey team were crowned Ulster Junior Schools Champions in March and it qualified them to play the June Smith All Ireland Championships where they met the respective winners of each province to play for the All Ireland Champions title on Thursday 20th April.

Preparation over Easter went well and the girls were prepared and determined to make their mark. Their first game was against Crescent College, Munster. The game was evenly matched however despite the local girls coming through stronger in the 2nd half the game finished nil all. Next up was Kilkenny College, South East. Yet again the Banbridge girls showed a lot of strength

and made sure they made the most of their opportunities in-front of goals and won the match 2 1 putting them at the top of the leaderboard with best goals for. Their third match was against Salerno, Connaught. While legs were starting to get tired, determination and enthusiasm was not. Despite having all the attacking ally and short corners, Salerno counterattacked and grabbed a goal against the run of play. Banbridge Academy threw all that they had to equalise but won no success. This loss meant that they oils have to depend on other results to go their way to be in the running for 1st position. The last match was against Loreto Beaufort Leinster, the hosts of the tournament. With the disappointment of match 3 behind them the girls found new strength and played some of their best hockey of the tournament and beat the Dublin side 1 nil. This result meant the Banbridge side

came away with the silver medals in the All Ireland championship with Crescent College being crowned All Ireland winners. Despite showing off the best hockey that junior hockey had seen and being disappointed not to have come home with the all Ireland title they were still happy to be ending an incredible season on a high.

Their journey was not possible without the support of our sponsors, The Half Way House, Purple Heather, Pepper Dromore Ltd, AJ construction and Select Insurance. Other thanks goes to Donaghies for their relentless help with kit and also to Centra for helping provide refreshments on the day.

With most of the team stepping up into senior hockey next year the future looks bright for Banbridge Academy Girls' Hockey.





# Girls' Hockey

## U14B

### Captain Francesca Duffy

Our U14B hockey team, coached by Dr Dobson, had another great season. Every Tuesday afternoon the team would meet for training, improving our skills and fitness, which led to 5 wins, and only two losses.

This season, the team hit the ground running. In our first match against RSA, there were many moments of dominance and strong attacking play; Martha and Grace securing a 4-0 win with two goals each with the help of our strong midfield players, Zoe and Lola. On a high from such a great start to the season, we came out of our match against Sullivan with a 2-0 win, with more great goals from Emma and Grace, and the lovely

goalkeeping from Ellie meant that we came out with yet another clean sheet against a very strong team!

Disappointingly, our winning streak came to an end when it came to the match against Dromore High's 'A Team'. With many attacking runs and close calls, in the second half Martha managed to get a goal against strong defence, but unfortunately we were unlucky and came away with a 2-1 finish.

On March 29th, ready to play Dromore again, we managed to come away with a great 5-0 win. Allegra's hat-trick, a goal each for Martha and Clodhna and great goalkeeping and defending, meant that

our team came away with a result that none of us imagined.

At the Girl's Hockey Awards Night held at the Belmont, Martha Malcomson won a very deserved 'Players' Player of The Year' award, and Clodhna McGrath won 'Most Improved Player' award, again, very well deserved.

Thank you to Dr Dobson, Mr Campbell and Mr Bingham ('Bingy') for helping us in being better players, (the fitness training definitely paid off!) and thank you to all the members of the squad who took part in matches this year, as this season was one to remember.



## U13A

### Hannah Carswell

This season the U13 A team performed very well, winning the Mid-Ulster League by remaining unbeaten.

They worked extremely hard to improve their skills and progress as a team, under the guidance of Julie Sally, and it paid off! At the start of the year, Molly Tumility and Maisie Nicholl (both Year 8), were added to the squad and fitted

in seamlessly. There were many great performances throughout the year in all areas of the pitch.

Three players were selected for the Ulster U15 Talent Development Programme: Hannah Carswell, Casey Cousins and Katie Leslie, and following further assessment, Katie was selected for the Ulster U16 Development Squad.

Her performances this year have also resulted in her being selected to train with next year's 1st XI squad.

This team are now working hard in their preparation for next year, where they hope to be as successful, and follow in the footsteps of this year's U14s in the Ulster Junior Cup and beyond.



# Girls' Hockey

## U13B

### Harriett McClelland- Captain

The U13b have training every Tuesday afternoon with the excellent coaching of Dr Dobson assisted by Mr Bingham and Mr Campell.

We started the year on the 1st of October by playing the strong Royal School, Armagh. This was an intense match (especially with it being our first of the season) but our defenders played well and didn't let the ball get into the back of the net. With some great attacking work, we got a great goal and came away with a 1-0 victory. This got our team in high spirits and well-motivated for our next match against Sullivan Upper, after which we also came away with a 1-0 victory. Only two days later we played Lurgan, who always have a strong team. While losing 1-0 at half time, we got advice from Dr Dobson that enabled us to score in the 2nd half, resulting in a finishing score of 1-1.

Later that week we travelled just down

the road to our neighbours... Dromore. We worked well as a team and with some great defence, secured another 1-0 win. Our matches stopped for a month until mid-November, which gave us time to develop as a team and work on a few drills that needed attention. Then on the 12th of November the sturdy team Kilkeel came our way and we as a team were unfortunately not determined enough for this match, which meant Kilkeel went away with a 2-0 win.

In the following two matches we beat Strathern 1-0 and Omagh, a dominating 8-0. In return to our Dromore fixture, they got a goal in the last minute of the



game, resulting in an unfortunate 1-0 loss. Our matches of the year finished in a triple win by playing: Markethill, 1-0 win, Banbridge High (win) and Tandragee Junior High- another 8-0 domination. Throughout the year we have made some massive improvements and overall we scored 22 goals and conceded 5. In match terms we got 7 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses.

Thank you to my amazing team and coaches throughout the year.

## My experience with U12A hockey

### Mollie Tumilty

The U13b have training every Tuesday afternoon with the excellent coaching of Dr Dobson assisted by Mr Bingham and Mr Campell.

We started the year on the 1st of October by playing the strong Royal School, Armagh. This was an intense match (especially with it being our first of the season) but our defenders played well and didn't let the ball get into the back of the net. With some great attacking work, we got a great goal and came away with a 1-0 victory. This got our team in high spirits and well-motivated for our next match against Sullivan Upper, after which we also came away with a 1-0 victory. Only two days later we played Lurgan, who always have a strong team. While losing 1-0 at half time, we got advice from Dr Dobson that enabled us to score in the 2nd half, resulting in a finishing score of 1-1.

Later that week we travelled just down the road to our neighbours... Dromore. We worked well as a team and with some great defence, secured another 1-0 win. Our matches stopped for a month until mid-November, which gave us time to develop as a team and work on a few drills that needed attention. Then on the 12th of November the sturdy team Kilkeel came our way and we as a team were unfortunately not determined enough for this match, which meant Kilkeel went away with a 2-0 win.

In the following two matches we beat Strathern 1-0 and Omagh, a dominating 8-0. In return to our Dromore fixture, they got a goal in the last minute of the game, resulting in an unfortunate 1-0 loss. Our matches of the year finished in a triple win by playing: Markethill, 1-0 win, Banbridge High (win) and Tandragee

Junior High- another 8-0 domination. Throughout the year we have made some massive improvements and overall we scored 22 goals and conceded 5. In match terms we got 7 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses.

Thank you to my amazing team and coaches throughout the year.

## U12B

### Julie Sally

The Under 12B team was coached by Mr Bingham and what a difficult task he had! He had a squad size of 20 plus for matches, but did extremely well to ensure each and everyone got pitch time whilst also making sure the girls enjoyed their hockey. There was a mix of wins, draws and unfortunately losses but onwards and upwards for next season!





# Girls' Hockey Hockey Awards

Banbridge Academy Girls' Hockey held their Annual Awards meal in the Belmont Hotel on Wednesday the 26th April. The main hall was filled with players and coaches from different teams, all dressed up and ready to celebrate each other's achievements. 1XI coach Neil Madeley was the magnificent MC for the evening, and our principal, Mr. McLoughlin, and Vice Principal Mr. McFarland were in attendance, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Following a wonderful meal, the main event of the evening ensued, with players from each team from U12 level, through to our Senior 1st XI recognised and rewarded for their hard work and achievements throughout the year: including 3 representatives at Ulster level, with Pippa Wilson included in the U-18 squad and Alyssa Somerville and Ruby Johnston making the U-16

squad. As the awards were given out it was inspiring to see the faces of all the players light up as they received their individual awards.

Ruby Wilson, our 1st XI captain, addressed the audience on behalf of all players, appreciating the efforts of all the staff and the school management's support for fostering enthusiasm for sports.

The night's theme of recognition extended to Mrs Sally and Mrs Todd when they were presented with special bouquets of flowers for their hard work and dedication to the teams throughout the season.

Mrs Todd took the opportunity to quickly share a review of all the teams' accomplishments throughout the year and thanked all staff for their coaching



contributions.

Overall, the evening was a resounding success, thanks to the collaboration of the school administration and the Belmont House Hotel. Lastly, a special thanks to all the parents and numerous sponsors who continue to support girls' hockey in Banbridge Academy throughout the year.



**U12 Prize winners Tilly Tumilty, Scarlett McBride, Edie Scott and Mollie Tumilty pictured with their coaches Peter Bingham, Craig Campbell, Julie Sally, Head of Girls' hockey Gemma Todd and Principal Robin McLoughlin.**



**U13 Prize winners Abi Cherry, Evie Hobson, Mya Kennedy, and Katie Leslie pictured with their coaches, Craig Campbell, Mark Barlow, Ros Dobson, Peter Bingham, Julie Sally, Head of Girls' hockey Gemma Todd and Principal Robin McLoughlin.**



**U14 Prize winners Ellie Walker, Ruby Johnston and Martha Malcolmson pictured with their coaches Sam Farson, Craig Campbell, Ros Dobson, Head of Girls' hockey Gemma Todd and Principal Robin McLoughlin.**



**3rd XI Prize winners Sophia Brown and Carly Fong pictured with their coaches Emma McCullough, Julie Sally, Head of Girls' hockey Gemma Todd and Principal Robin McLoughlin.**



**2nd XI Prize winners Zara McCormick, Lucy Friar and Ellie Cousins pictured with their coaches Sarah Anderson, Elaine Spratt, Head of Girls' hockey Gemma Todd and Principal Robin McLoughlin.**



**1st XI Prize winners Charlotte Waugh and Ellen Jack pictured with their coaches Sam Farson, Neil Madeley, Julie Sally, Head of Girls' hockey Gemma Todd and Principal Robin McLoughlin.**