

Cheshire blow into town to give Panthers a true test

CHESHIRE COUNTY handed the young Panthers players a few big defeats, but also a lot of experience, in their mass visit to St Sampson's High last weekend.

In an event featuring six age-group matches, which was supported by the Peninsula Hotel, taking place against a club allied to Superleague team Manchester Thunder, the opening U14 game set the tone for what was to come.

The 'Pen' Panthers have recently enjoyed competing a year up in the U15 Sussex League and they put in a spirited performance on Saturday but ultimately lost 34-57.

The Guernsey girls gave a particularly good account of themselves in the first quarter and at the break trailed by just two goals, 10-12.

Cheshire made a number of turnovers to test the Pen girls in the second quarter and they extended the gap to 16-24 at half-time.

Cheshire's sharp shooters shone brightest in the final two quarters and while Guernsey also made good use of their chances, a 24-41 scoreline with 15 minutes left showed the dominance of the visitors.

Centre Poppy Cochrane took player-of-the-match for the home side.

'At the end of the day, it's a great opportunity for the girls and it's good to play some more competitive netball that you do not tend to get in Guernsey'

Heidi Rosamund

It was still an effort to be proud of, according to coach Heidi Rosamund, against a 'professionally drilled' team.

'We knew it was going to be a tough game and they are training partners with a Superleague team,' she said.

'For a little Guernsey side, we did not do so badly, and we had a good first quarter.

'At the end of the day, it's a great opportunity for the girls and it's good to play some more competitive netball that you do not tend to get in Guernsey.'

It had been a similar case

by Jamie Ingrouille

jingrouille@guernseypress.com

for the LTS Tax U16 Panthers, who had missed a host of players from their successful South League squad in their 25-62 loss.

But after entering half-time 10-35 down and finishing quarter three at 14-50, they put up a considerable fight in a well-contested final period.

Jos Carre had been named the outstanding player for her wing-defence performance.

The Guernsey over-30s later lost 30-47 to the visiting U18s.

In the first two Sunday's three matches, the U16s sustained a 25-59 defeat and the U18s, facing the visiting O30s, went down 16-83.

The U14s stepped on court again and ultimately sprang the visitors their closest challenge of the weekend.

The 30-46 scoreline didn't tell the whole story in this surprisingly well-contested match.

After a tough first quarter, ending 4-15, the Pen girls worked as a team to hold the visiting team to one or two goals in each following period.

Following this improved result, the U14s will continue to build up towards a hopeful inter-insular title defence, including a home match against 5Ways and a trip to face Poole in early March.

In the meantime, the U16s return to St Sampson's High this Saturday to play age-group South Division Two leaders NRG at 10.30am.



Peninsula Panthers (green) try to find a way around the well-drilled Cheshire outfit at St Sampson's High. (Pictures supplied by Ben Flore, 27184901)



(27184869)



(27184871)



The visiting Cheshire sides proved to be formidable opponents for the Samians. (27184878)



(27184893)



(27184904)



(27184859)