

Inter-City Final

Premier Women v Roskill Eden

Reigning Champions Somerville have been to the Auckland Inter-City final, (regarded as this country's premier club competition) for the last 3 years and have won the last two in succession, the title of favourites rested firmly on their shoulders.

A difficult feat for any team in a competition littered with international stars, and a feat made even more difficult as teams struggle for consistency through the rigours of a season that brings unavailability through injuries, international and regional representative commitments along with every other little thing that conspires to disrupt the fluidity of a group of elite sporting people. The true testimony of any great club team is the ability to rise above these challenges.

Somerville under International Coach Katie Glynn and a strong club framework has built a formidable record that also celebrates its premier Reserve team heading to the club finals for the 3rd successive year (having won the previous two).

Saturday's final was against Roskill Eden who had come from 4th position in the regular season to storm home in the latter part of the top 6 round to deservedly earn their place in the final.

The match began nervously with both teams having opportunities to sneak a lead however, Somerville had the better of the circle penetration statistics even though they failed to score.

In the second quarter it was Somerville that took the initiative after 6 minutes when Rose Tynan sent the perfect reverse pass over 50 metres to a hungry Breana Catley. The large crowd erupted as Catley received perfectly and immediately jumped past the remaining defenders before the 22m line, she drew the Roskill Eden GK perfectly and slid a well-timed pass to International team-mate Amy Robinson who made no mistake with the finish.

Somerville continued to dominate this quarter with Liz Thompson, Anna Bannatyne, her younger sister Lucy along with Stella Rollo often tormenting the Roskill defence. Tynan and Catley renown for blistering reverse stick finishing were thwarted with steady Goal Keeping from Alice McIlroy Foster in the Roskill Goal.

The "ville" girls have struggled with 3rd quarter blues this season and Saturdays final was no different. Roskill Eden created several good opportunities and Somerville were under the pump on occasions having made life difficult for themselves with costly midfield turn-overs.

Going to the final quarter with a one goal advantage there were some very nervous moments. The cementing of the game was possibly an interception run by youngster Hannah Stewart for Somerville as she tidied up and carried to safety under intense pressure from two Roskill Eden strikers.

Despite Roskill Eden pulling their GK for an extra striker in the final 5 minutes the Somerville senior-crew came to the fore with Julia King, Beckie Middleton, Jaz McQuinn, Belinda Smith and Jess Bestall all dominating the ball and field position.

The final whistle ensured the reigning champions will send home GB and England international Beckie Middleton with another club title to her list. Her impact on the team this year could not have gone un-noticed as she has made friends and enthralled hockey supporters when-ever she played.

The final paragraph is left to team captain Belinda Smith ...

“2019 was another solid season for our Premier Women. With players in and out with various commitments throughout the year, we became a very malleable team, which shows the depth we have here at Somerville. And the final was no different, with another new combination it was awesome to see us come through as a team and with the win. The game was a real battle against an opposition filled with extreme passion.

I’m very proud that we were able to go back to back in the Intercity competition with a great group of ladies and want to thank Peter Tynan and Peter King for their support throughout the season. The biggest thanks also goes to our coach Katie Glynn, without her like-minded attitude towards winning and her on field expectations we wouldn’t have achieved the double – she’s a great asset.”

Players used for 2019:

Abby	Lane	Fran	Davies	Lulu	Fulton
Ailsa	Connolly	Grace	Ohanlon	Maddie	Dowe
Amy	Robinson	Hannah	Stewart	Miranda	Stuart
Amy	Robinson	Helen	Clarke	Phoebe	Steele
Anna	Bannatyne	Jasmin	McQuinn	Rose	Parkinson
Arabella	Loveridge	Jess	Bestall	Samantha	Charlton
Beckie	Middleton	Julia	King	Stella	Rollo
Belinda	Smith	Kaelin	Hartog	Tarryn	Davey
Breana	Catley	Liz	Thompson	Tinesha	Carey
Emma	Thompson	Lucy	Bannatyne		

Final Score: 1-0

Match Report

Simon Norton