

# MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 11YG vs FOREST LIONS  
ROUND 3 - 01/05/2025  
Lionel Watts Oval, Frenchs Forest

This week the team ventured out on a Friday night expedition to be hosted by the Forest Lions. Forest are always a tough opponent in any age group, a very well organised and coached club, and Friday nights are a challenge to get focused for the kids but the girls were switched on, as demonstrated by the most common question to the coach being "why are you wearing long pants?".

Forest kicked the first goal but the team responded with a dominant first quarter including three goals and three Forest players attempting to join our huddle at the break, before following up with a second quarter that was much the same with another three goals but only one Forest player temporarily joined us for oranges this time.

The third and fourth were much more of an arm wrestle - our swarming defence made a difference and kept Forest from hitting the scoreboard multiple times as they scored the only goal in the third and we did similar in the fourth.

We're still working on things like not getting too sucked to the ball but the girls are doing really well, as they've demonstrated with their third fairly comfortable victory in a row.

Juliet A led the way in the first half with big ruck spikes and so much effort up and down the field - I couldn't keep her out of the play if I tried.

Juliette S proved an impact player in the forward line, with a couple of goals bursting out of congestion and good tackles locking the ball in too.

Ari was dynamic everywhere. I love watching her jump around in the ruck knowing she brought that full blooded effort everywhere. On a long field her long kicks getting into space helped set us up in attack numerous times.

Layla was a little energizer bunny with a big kick. After spending most of the game in the midfield or attack, she got thrown into defence in the last two minutes to help out the team under pressure and the energy brought multiple tackles, clearances and smothers everywhere.

Indi got a well-deserved player of the match award this week for her full effort all the time against our toughest opponents so far. Her tackling was fantastic, nailing plenty of players in an inescapable grapple, grabbing balls off the boot of the opponents, and just generally fighting to win the ball.

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Margot provided the observers with a demonstration of her great dance steps, leading her team on a merry dance around the forward line. With a more focused contribution, she popped up several times in the mids, winning the ball and giving our team time to catch back up as play moved forward.

After a couple of stand out games, Maeve again proved an impact player with some great bursts out of groups of players with her speed, but a combination of getting a bit stuck up forward when we were fighting for the ball more elsewhere and the unfamiliar bounce of the synthetic ground stopped it being an all-time game like her last two have been.

Amelia was a tackling machine this week, often the first in to lay a tackle and letting her teammates swarm in to help out, as well as rushing everywhere to crack in. She even did a job in the last quarter on one of the Forest players who had been proving very difficult for our team to get past, helping quell her impact on the game.

Char was a coach's dream with her smart positioning, and following instructions to great effect - hovering a kick behind play as instructed let us lock the ball in our forward line, and her focus on the ball in the air ensured Forest didn't rebound the ball straight out. Her game was capped with a professional-looking set shot goal straight through the big sticks.

Charlotte D was super reliable as always, and it doesn't matter where you look you'll find her there. She will track all the way back up the field to be on the last line in defence tackling even when playing in the midfield, she will man up a taller player to help stop them from intercept marking, and she has an uncanny ability to go where the ball is going to be.

Myah proved a real glue between mids and forwards. Joining us as the only U9s player this week she really helped out swarming the ball forward with her teammates and did not look out of place at this level.

Emily probably spent the most time of anyone in the ruck and worked herself really hard throughout the whole game. She earned a few free kicks with her tackling and contested work, and was a really consistent contributor throughout.

Harriet showed up with a smart game on Friday night, as she worked the outside of the contest rather than congest further, all in order to push the ball forward when she got a chance.

Josie on the other hand always seemed to be in the thick of any contest going. She got a couple of quality clearances to the team's advantage, and brought other girls into the game with her short kicks and pressure.

Hornsby Berowra Eagles 7.1.43 dft Forest Lions 2.1.13

Goals: Emily Waite: 2; Juliette Schepen: 2; Charlotte Ellis Gaudron: 1; Juliet Allan: 1; Ariela Sakajani: 1.

Report by Donald Shepherd