

Netball tournament

The wind whipped round us, and it was very cold, but that didn't bother us. Our spirits were sky high as we stepped onto the grass of the courts outside Thomas's Clapham for the netball tournament. We went into the white marquee to wait for Mrs Gardner. I rubbed my hands together, and Matilda gave out handwarmers for everyone.

Then, Miss Gardner found us. She called us onto the grass on the side of the courts, and told us that we will be playing soon. She gave us our bibs, and told us to have a bit of a warmup. We soon found out that we would be playing Herrodian.

After a little while, we got onto the court, and the match began. Herrodian started with the ball. We flew around the court back-and-forth back-and-forth, goals flying into each net. In the last five minutes, it was Herrodian's end. Tension flew between us the goal shooter prepared to shoot. As the ball left here hand, I bit my lip in worry, and could see the tension in the others faces. A few seconds later, the ball landed in the hoop. I felt quite sad, and I knew the other girls did too. But I remembered that Herrodian were a vey good team, and that 4-3is very close. Besides, we still had a lot more matches to go. We we went back to the marquee to eat snacks, share words of comfort, and get ready for the next match.

Our next match wasn't for awhile, so we decided to sit for a little bit and watch the team we were playing next. We were playing Thomas's Kensington.

We were then called onto the court. We will buzzing with excitement and we're ready to play the next match. We started with the ball. Everyone played excellently, and we managed to get the ball down to Aaliya and Poppy, our shooters. I was so excited my hands were pressed together. I could see the excitement on everyone's faces, and then the complete and the joy when they shot. But we had little time to relax, as in shortly after. Forward back forward back the ball went as well as into the D and through our hoops many times. In the last seven minutes, the score was 4-1. The balls down our end. Poppy lined up the shot. I was so excited and I had this feeling that she would get it in, and when she did, I was ecstatic, and with that the game ended 5-1 to us.



We took a deep breath, a sigh of relief and joy, and then congratulated each other on our win. Miss Gardner told us to get ready, as we were playing soon. We went back to the marquee to eat the snacks that we brought. Poppy, Ophelia and Matilda had a strawberry boot lace eating competition, and Poppy won. then, Miss Garner told us to get ready, as we were playing Thomas's Fulham. I was quite nervous, more nervous than I had previously been, as I had seen how they had played, which was very well. We stepped onto the court and found our players, and the game began. We started with the ball. We got it down to our end with a few interceptions along the way. Then with a joint effort between Poppy and Aaliya, it went into the goal. Then it was Thomas's Fulham's turn with the ball. They got it down smoothly, which shook worry into all of us. Then with one shot, it went smoothly into the goal. The the game went like that for quite a while, then we started to pull into the lead. It was it was 6-4 and down their end. It went smoothly into the goal. It was quite satisfying to watch at first, but then, a wave of realisation and horror went over me that we were only one goal ahead. We got it back up our end, and Aaliya had a shot at goal. She rubbed her eye that had been hit earlier in the game by the ball and looked up towards the post. Then it went in. I was so happy. Thomas's then had the ball. They got it halfway down the centre third, when Ayla intercepted it. I almost shouted with delight as the ball soared down towards our goal. Then Poppy took aim, and scored. The bell went, signing the end of the match. I was so happy that we had won our second game. We ran around a little bit it, and ate some more sweets.

After what seemed like almost no time, we had to play our four match. It was against Thomas's Clapham, the home school. We all looked at each other, expressions of fear twisted on our faces, as they had a big advantage (being the home school). But as we stepped onto the court, determination grew from the bottom of my heart, and I knew that somehow, we would be okay.

We found our markers and then play began. Thomas' Clapham started with the ball and from the off we knew that they were a very good team. With ease the ball flew to the end of the court and, like it was nothing, the shooter plopped it into the goal. Then we started with the ball. After a few interceptions from the other team we got it to the D and in the goal it went. The game continued in this fashion for a while

with some amazing goals on both sides but ultimately in the last 5 minutes we managed to get a goal in and took it to a final 4-4 draw.

We were all exhausted and Aaliya had hurt herself a little bit but we got no rest as it was straight on to a match with Rutherford. This match was less even-handed and ended in a convincing 6-1 to us, though there was good play on both sides. Then it was time for the last match against Thomas' Battersea. The ball rushed from both sides and many good goals were shot on both teams, particularly one from the edge of the D by Thomas' Battersea. The final score was 3-1 to them. We were a little bit sad but cheered up as we were told to sit down in our teams. It was time for the prize-giving.

First the star players from each team were called up. They were each given a medal and a round of applause. Then it came to Falkner House's turn. We were all excited and ready to congratulate whoever it was. Then they called Matilda's name. I was very happy as I knew Matilda was very deserving of it as she had played really well.

Finally, it was time to announce the overall placement of the teams who were on the podium. Tension hung in the air; looks were exchanged between schools.

Everyone was sitting on their toes, hoping for a chance to get up. They called 3rd place first and it went to Thomas' Kensington. We clapped dutifully though secretly wishing it was us as we suspected we probably didn't come 1st or 2nd.

Then 2nd place was announced. A drum roll was given and we were all excited. Then we heard the words "FALKNER HOUSE"! We squealed with excitement and rose to collect our medals. After that we went aside to Mrs Gardener for a team photo. The joy was written across our faces. Ultimately 1st place went to Thomas' Clapham but we all went home feeling like winners.