



**ENGLAND NETBALL OPENING WEEKEND
THE TRIANGLE, SUSSEX 10-11TH DECEMBER 2011**

MATCH REPORTS

All ten NTL teams made their way to The Triangle in Burgess Hill to make their mark on the league table for the first time this season. Storm's schedule was a challenging one facing Team Northumbria followed by Yorkshire Jets on the Saturday, before taking on Junior Dragons Sunday afternoon. Reflecting on last season, Storm had been overturned by both Dragons and Team Northumbria, placing them in a vulnerable situation going into their final match of the season against Northern Thunder. The London and South East side were determined not to let history repeat itself this weekend. Having competed in the NTL tournament last month where Storm finished fourth after a day of mixed results, the London and South East side knew they had their work cut out for them if they were going to contend for the NTL title this season.

GAME ONE

SURREY STORM TALENT 51
Team Northumbria 31

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 2011 • THE TRIANGLE, SUSSEX • 3PM

SURREY STORM

**Katie Harris
Amanda Davis
Ellie Fawsitt
Fran Desmond
Mel Steingass
Georgia Lees (C)
Olivia Emanus
Charlotte Carbery
Becca Hazell
Alima Priest
Charley Marshall
Katie Hawkes**

TEAM NORTHUMBRIA

**Beth Johnson
Leah Kennedy
Sarah Ferry
Claire Brown
Rebecca Neil
Thea Thompson
Kayley Moss
Hollie Linigan
Lucy Kitching
Laura Brookes
Kathryn Binks
Nicole Bailey**

Surrey Storm stepped onto the court a little apprehensive for their first game of the season. All the games from now on counted, and Storm knew they had to have some positive results to ensure they are realistic contenders for the top spot this season. Team Northumbria were the first to score from their own centre pass before Storm replied with a seven goal flurry. A strong start gave Storm the positive lift they needed to solidify everything they had been working on in training. In attack, Desmond and Fawsitt cut through the defence with skill and class, delivering pinpoint passes into the shooters Harris and Davis, who notched up 15 goals in 15 minutes between them, only missing 3 opportunities in total. At the other end Storm were closing down Team Northumbria's advances by pressuring the pass and sticking to their opponents like glue, with the circle defence collecting the rebounds at every opportunity. Storm were not going to give Northumbria an easy ride this time around. After the first quarter Storm stepped off the court more relaxed and confident in their own ability. Never to be complacent, Storm knew they had to continue in the same vain, knowing Team Northumbria were a tough team with plenty of resilience and determination.

Going into the second half Surrey Storm were leading Team Northumbria 26 goals to 16. With a ten goal cushion Storm brought on Charlotte Carbery to GA, moving Davis to GS. Charlotte had a positive debut, nailing 75% of her shots, contributing to Storm's growing dominance over the game. Storm continued to push on, scoring 9 goals unanswered in the third quarter. The third quarter saw Storm extend their lead by 15 goals.

The final quarter saw more changes from the Surrey side, with seasoned defender Hazell taking to the court at WD. Desmond was replaced by Steingass at C, Priest replaced Emanus at GK, and Harris returned to GS with Davis moving back to GA. Tiredness was kicking in for the Newcastle based side, creating only 9 shooting opportunities. Lees and Priest worked well together, continuing to put pressure on the Team Northumbria shooters, while Hazell supported Steingass and Marshall bringing the ball through the court in attack. Storm were able to breathe a sigh of relief as the final whistle blew. Storm has extended their lead even further finishing the game 20 goals ahead of their opponents- 51- 31.

In places Storm made hard work of the game, sometimes giving free reign to Team Northumbria, and often leaving it to the last minute to make turnovers. It is to be expected that first-game jitters play a part, with nerves overriding sensible passing decisions, but Storm did themselves proud by settling in the second half and truly dominating the game. Next up was Yorkshire Jets!

Team line-up:

	SURREY STORM TALENT			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GS	Katie Harris	Katie Harris	Amanda Davis	Katie Harris
GA	Amanda Davis	Amanda Davis	Charlotte Carbery	Amanda Davis
WA	Ellie Fawsitt	Ellie Fawsitt	Ellie Fawsitt	Ellie Fawsitt
C	Fran Desmond	Fran Desmond	Fran Desmond	Mel Steingass
WD	Mel Steingass	Mel Steingass	Mel Steingass	Becca Hazell
GD	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees
GK	Olivia Emanus	Olivia Emanus	Olivia Emanus	Alima Priest

Quarter scores:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SURREY STORM	15	11 (26)	13 (39)	12 (51)
TEAM N'HUMBRIA	8	8 (16)	8 (24)	7 (31)

Shooting Stats

STORM SHOOTING STATS									
	1 st		2 nd		3 rd		4 th		Totals
KATIE HARRIS	7/8	88%	6/6	100%			8/12	67%	21/26 81%
AMANDA DAVIS	8/10	80%	5/6	83%	7/9	78%	4/7	57%	17/23 74%
CHARLOTTE CARBERY					6/8	75%			6/8 75%
TEAM TOTALS	15/18	83%	11/12	92%	13/17	76%	12/19	63%	51/66 77%
TEAM NORTHUMBRIA STATS									
GS	5/8	63%	4/7	57%	5/8	63%	5/6	83%	19/29 66%
GA	3/3	100%	4/5	80%	3/3	100%	2/3	67%	12/14 86%
TEAM TOTALS	8/11	73%	8/12	67%	8/11	73%	7/9	78%	31/43 72%

GAME TWO

SURREY STORM TALENT 37

Yorkshire Jets 58

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 2011 • THE TRIANGLE, SUSSEX • 7PM

SURREY STORM

Katie Harris
Charlotte Carbery
Hannah Joseph
Fran Desmond
Becca Hazell
Olivia Emanus
Freya Thompson
Temi Odanye
Amanda Davis
Katie Hawkes
Georgia Lees (C)
Charley Marshall

YORKSHIRE JETS

Amy Stevens
Hannah Millns
Emily Whitside
Jess Shaw
Lucy Richardson
Amy Potter
Claire Wilsher
Emma Lock
Brie Grierson
Lydia Walker
Francesca Barrientos
Eleanor Dent

After the relief of winning their first game to a team who had defeated them last year, Storm then set their sights on Yorkshire Jets. In the past, Storm has had a good track record against the Yorkshire side, previously known as Leeds Carneige. After beating them convincingly last season, and overturning them at the tournament last month, Storm knew it would be a tough game, but certainly a winnable one. Storm, yet again started strongly, quickly finding the

net to get a 3-1 lead. For the majority of the first quarter Storm held their own, but unforced errors and poor discipline crept in allowing Yorkshire Jets to edge their way into the game and sneak a 2 goal lead going into the second quarter.

Luck was against the Surrey side, with some questionable calls from the umpires. However Storm failed to adjust their game and shut down Yorkshires advances. After scoring 17 goals to Storm's 12, Yorkshire Jets continued to force Storm into a corner, piling the pressure on the defence. At the other end, when Storm did gain possession the attack did a great job in taking ball to goal, with Harris maintaining a consistent shooting average of 91%. With Yorkshire Jets not giving Storm an inch, they had to make sure every possession was converted to goal. Carbery ensured this was the case by notching up a 100% shooting average. Presented with these averages, it was frustrating for the bench to watch Storm throw so many balls away through ill-discipline and unforced errors.

They say "Success favours the team who makes the fewest mistakes". Storm certainly learned this the hard way as Jets continued to punish the London and South East side for the duration of the second half. Storm made changes, bringing on Davis on at GS, Odanye at on at WD, and Captain Lees on at GD to command the circle. All made a positive impact on the game but at this point Jets were in the process of wrapping up the game and snatching the win. Credit has to be given to the Yorkshire side who continued to punish Storm for their mistakes, exposing their ill-discipline and capitalising on every turn over. Storm came off the court subdued after suffering a 37-58 defeat.

Team line-up:

	SURREY STORM TALENT			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GS	Katie Harris	Katie Harris	Amanda Davis	Amanda Davis
GA	Charlotte Carbery	Charlotte Carbery	Charlotte Carbery	Charlotte Carbery
WA	Hannah Joseph	Hannah Joseph	Hannah Joseph	Charley Marshall
C	Fran Desmond	Fran Desmond	Fran Desmond	Hannah Joseph
WD	Becca Hazell	Becca Hazell	Temi Odanye	Temi Odanye
GD	Olivia Emanus	Olivia Emanus	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees
GK	Freya Thompson	Freya Thompson	Olivia Emanus	Olivia Emanus

Quarter scores:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SURREY STORM	12	12 (24)	6 (30)	7 (37)
Yorkshire Jets	14	17 (31)	14 (45)	13 (58)

STORM SHOOTING STATS					
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Totals
KATIE HARRIS	7/9 78%	10/11 91%			17/20 85%
AMANDA DAVIS			4/5 80%	6/9 67%	10/14 71%
CHARLOTTE CARBERY	5/6 83%	2/2 100%	2/6 33%	1/2 50%	10/16 63%
TEAM TOTALS	12/15 80%	12/13 92%	6/11 66%	7/11 64%	37/50 74%
YORKSHIRE JETS SHOOTING STATS					
GS	9/11 82%	14/16 88%	9/11 82%	9/10 90%	41/48 85%
GA	5/6 83%	3/6 50%	5/6 83%	4/5 80%	17/23 73%
TEAM TOTALS	14/17 82%	17/22 77%	14/17 82%	13/15 87%	58/71 82%

GAME THREE

SURREY STORM TALENT 47

Junior Dragons 43

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 2011 • THE TRIANGLE, SUSSEX • 1PM

SURREY STORM

**Katie Harris
Amanda Davis
Ellie Fawsitt
Fran Desmond
Mel Steingass
Alima Priest
Georgia Lees
Charlotte Carbery
Hannah Joseph
Becca Hazell
Olivia Emanus
Freya Thompson**

JUNIOR DRAGONS

**Bethan Dyke
Hannah Cadwallader
Leanne Thomas
Ellen Zachary
Katie Gildersleve
Chloe Maclennan
Fern Davies
Rhian Bethell
Hannah Jones
Katie Llewellyn**

After suffering their first defeat so early on in the season, Storm were determined to end the weekend on a high. Having conceded a game to Junior Dragons last season the girls knew they would be up against it. The Dragons side is made up of Welsh internationals; therefore the quality of netball would undoubtedly be high, demanding the very best from Storm.

Once again Storm were consistent in their strong start, shaking off any pre-match nerves by notching up a 5 goal lead in the first few minutes. Harris shot 10 shots from 10 attempts, making her mark on the game and unfazed by the pressure to bring home a win. The defence thwarted Dragon's attempts to reply to Storm's advances, making it difficult for them to match the score line for the first ten minutes of the game. In the last five minutes of the first quarter Storm visibly relaxed and concentration wavered. Dragons saw this as an ideal opportunity to sneak some timely and much needed goals past Storm's defence. After such a strong start Storm were gutted to leave the court one goal down. Going into the second quarter Storm made one change in the mid court, bringing England player Joseph off the bench and into the C position. What followed was 15 minutes of goal for goal netball. Storm's bench were screaming for discipline right the way through the court. They could not afford to let Dragons turn the ball over and concede more goals. Dragons seemed to suffer a concentration lapse also, allowing Storm to score three goals in succession bringing them one goal ahead going into half time.

With the score 24-23, Storm's line-up remained unchanged. Having finally regained their composure, Storm entered the second half refocused on the job in hand. Now was the time for each and every player to stick to the game plan, and pull together. A repeat of the second quarter ensued where the game was going end to end, goal for goal. It wasn't until the last 5 minutes that Storm turned up the tempo and punished Dragons for passing errors by scoring 4 goals without reply. This left Storm with a bigger cushion going into the final quarter; however Dragons were not going to give this game up without a fight. Again Storm remained unchanged, with the attack working well together, and the defence working as a tight unit.

It was Dragons' turn to have a strong start in the final quarter, scoring three goals before Harris could sink Storm's first. With Dragons narrowing the gap Storm had to step it up yet again. The passing needed to be pinpoint, the play clean, and the players patient with their feeds into the circle. For a time panic set in at the thought Storm could be staring another loss in the face, but Captain Lees commanded for calm from the back, settling her team. Storm managed to regain their control, finally closing the game with a final score of 47 goals to 43. All the players that stepped onto the contributed to a well fought and justified win.

Team line-up:

	SURREY STORM TALENT			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GS	Katie Harris	Katie Harris	Katie Harris	Katie Harris
GA	Amanda Davis	Amanda Davis	Amanda Davis	Amanda Davis
WA	Ellie Fawsitt	Ellie Fawsitt	Ellie Fawsitt	Ellie Fawsitt
C	Fran Desmond	Hannah Joseph	Hannah Joseph	Hannah Joseph
WD	Mel Steingass	Mel Steingass	Mel Steingass	Mel Steingass
GD	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees	Georgia Lees
GK	Alima Priest	Alima Priest	Alima Priest	Alima Priest

Quarter scores:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SURREY STORM	11	13 (24)	13 (37)	10 (47)
Junior Dragons	12	11 (23)	10 (33)	10 (37)

STORM SHOOTING STATS									
	1 st		2 nd		3 rd		4 th		Totals
KATIE HARRIS	10/10	100%	7/7	100%	8/10	80%	7/8	88%	32/35 91%
AMANDA DAVIS	1/2	50%	6/8	75%	5/8	63%	3/3	100%	15/21 71%
TEAM TOTALS	11/12	92%	13/15	87%	13/18	72%	10/11	91%	47/56 84%
JUNIOR DRAGONS SHOOTING STATS									
GS	7/7	100%	5/5	100%	8/11	73%	5/8	63%	25/31 81%
GA	4/6	67%	6/7	86%	3/4	75%	5/6	83%	18/23 78%
TEAM TOTALS	11/13	85%	11/12	92%	11/15	73%	10/14	71%	43/54 79%

After a mixed weekend, with two wins and one loss under their belt, Storm left Sussex having learned some very valuable lessons. Discipline and unforced errors were the key hindrances to their performance this weekend, something that they cannot afford to carry forward into their future games. Never one to dwell on negatives, Storm can be confident that once these areas for improvement have been addressed, they will be a force to be reckoned with in the New Year- the season is still wide open, and it is anyone's title!

The Surrey Storm squad and the coaching team would like to take this opportunity to thank their loyal supporters for cheering them on at these matches.