

Letchworth victorious over England U20s.

In the first game of a back to back match weekend, Letchworth Roller Hockey Club hosted the England U20 team (which includes players selected from clubs across England.)

The game started well for the hosts with James Taylor opening the scoring in the 3rd minute. However, the England youngsters were not to be so easily defeated and hit back in the 9th minute to draw level. Taylor put LRHC in the lead again 5 minutes later, only for the U20s to be awarded a penalty. Their vice-captain took the shot, and hit the ball straight past the LRHC keeper, who was not yet in position. Appeals to the refs for the penalty to be re-taken went unheard, and the goal was allowed to stand: 2-2. It took less than a minute for the LRHC team to hit back through Carlos Amaral, and Taylor extended the lead with seconds to go before half time, putting the hosts 4-2 ahead.

The u20s came out strongly in the second half and pulled a goal back in the 3rd minute. Both sides put pressure on goal, and it was the home side who eventually made it count with Taylor again on target in the 18th minute. A direct free hit 1 minute later (awarded after the U20s notched up 10 team fouls) allowed Taylor to extend the lead to 6 – 3 with his 5th goal of the game. The England team kept up the pressure and it was only thanks to some fantastic saves by the LRHC keeper Ben Howes that they weren't able to score. A final goal in the last minute from LRHCs Craig Gibson left the hosts as clear winners 7-3, a great birthday gift for LRHC captain Andrew Allen.

Team: D Milne (GK), C Gibson, M Giancola, J Veasey, N Allen (VC), A Allen(C), C Amaral, B Howes (GK), R Jupp, J Taylor