

## The Girls Football Team

### London Youth Games 2/4/2014

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014, the Larmenier and Sacred Heart girls' football team travelled to the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre to represent Hammersmith and Fulham at the London Youth Games. They would be facing 31 other schools in the fight to become the best team in London.

Our initial group games saw us play inside a huge dome on artificial grass. The girls went up against schools from Kensington and Chelsea (KAC), Merton and Bexley. They emerged top of the group on 7 points after beating local rivals KAC 1-0 (Lina) before drawing 0-0 with Merton. The final group game saw Lina help herself to a hat-trick and Camilla net another as the girls beat Bexley 1-0.

The best 16 schools from the initial groups progressed to the winners groups. In this group LARSH moved outside to face schools from Camden, Redbridge and Southwark. The first group game against Redbridge was a frustrating one for the girls as they did everything but score. Redbridge defended well and ground out a 0-0 draw. In the second game of the group, LARSH faced a strong Camden team and despite having most of the possession again the girls couldn't find a way through. Camden had one chance in the game and they took it well. LARSH had lost their first game of the day but everything was still to play for as a win in their last group game would send them into the quarter finals.

LARSH started their game against Southwark well and went 1-0 up through a well taken goal from Olivia. Southwark found it difficult to start any attacks as all the girls were working very hard to win the ball back quickly. Lina added to the lead and the girls won 2-0 which meant a quarter final against Hounslow.

The team from Hounslow had been incredibly impressive prior to the quarter final, winning most of their matches comfortably. Tilly was given the job of marking the girl who had scored most of Hounslow's goals and she did an incredible job – it was Tilly's best performance in two years of playing for the school. LARSH had handled everything Hounslow had to throw at them with Gemma, Camilla and Johanna working extremely hard. However we were finding it difficult to create chances ourselves with the final pass letting us down. Then Hounslow scored as shot from the right ran across the box and the Hounslow player had the easiest of tap ins at the back post. LARSH pushed and pushed but could not find a way through. The game finished 1-0 to Hounslow and the girls were eliminated (Hounslow went on to win the tournament).

The girls were disappointed initially but this achievement is not to be taken lightly. They are the 6<sup>th</sup> best girls' team in the whole of London (approx. 1700 schools), they have won 12 and drawn 3 games out of 17 played, scoring 35 goals in the process and conceding only 3. Most importantly the girls won the Mayor's Cup!

Well done on a great season!

Mr Garvin