

## ENGLAND U19 Women vs Belarus U19 Women 9<sup>th</sup> January - 2015

### ENGLAND 0 - 3 BELARUS (15-25, 15-25, 12-25)

England were back in action at the New Volleyball Arena, Tbilisi. This time to face Belarus in their second match of Pool B and it was Belarus who started brightest with some strong blocking to lead 8-1 at the first technical time out. England, who were showing improvements in the serve receive, (*from their first match Vs Georgia*), and with some powerful hitting from Evans, continued to try to keep pace, going into the second technical time out trailing 8-16. An Ace from Borrowdale following a time out brought England back to within 5 points of their opponents at 14-19, but Belarus were able to see out the set clinching it 25-15 with powerful hitting through four.

England continued to recycle the ball well showing improvements in their passing and traded points in the early exchanges of the second set going into the first technical trailing 5-8. Some powerful hitting from Lord and Bontems kept England within touching distance of Belarus, but consecutive points through four for Belarus led to an England time out at 6-12. Evans continued to lead the attack for England as they went into the second technical time out with the score at 9-16. Each point continued to be fiercely competitive but the blocking from Belarus continued to profit as they once again sealed the set 15-25

After a marathon rally to open the 3<sup>rd</sup> set, a line winner from Evans, soon followed by a monster block from Borrowdale gave England the initiative early in set leading 5-3, but went into the first technical time out trailing 7-8. Belarus extended their lead courtesy of some powerful cross court hitting through four and once again took a lead of 16-9 into the second technical. England continued to pass well but were unable to consistently penetrate the Belarus block defence, with Belarus clinching the third set 12-25 against a battling England side.

It was a promising performance from a team who battled back from disappointment 24 hours before, putting in a markedly better performance in key areas such as serve receive, but were ultimately out powered at the net by a strong Belarus side.

[Assistant Coach: Paul Welsh] *"After a disappointing day yesterday we challenged the players to bounce back giving a stronger performance. After a solid training session this morning and a detailed team briefing this afternoon; we had small process focused goals going into the game"*

*"The girls did an excellent job against a highly ranked team, and it was pleasing to see the girls react so positively; achieving all barring one of our team goals. The future with this group is looking positive moving forward"*

#### Key Stats:

**Serve Receive:** Team: 1.58 (Murmanis 1.75 from 12 with no errors)  
**Serve (Aces):** Team: 4  
**MVP:** Anaya Evans

#### Squad

1. Rheanne Lord, 2. Eva Borrowdale, 3. Georgia McGovern, 4. Amber Davies, 5. Charlotte Breen, 6. Faye Hills  
7. Anaya Evans (Captain), 8. Saffron Betts, 9. Katy Begley, 10. Charlotte Bontems 11. Holly Merrifield (Libero)  
12. Katy Murmanis (Libero)