

Women`s Qualifying Tournament for XXVIII Olympic Games, Auckland

FIH (www.worldhockey.org) LIVE COMMENTARY: Game 4: NZL v GBR

19 March 2004

Start Time: 16:30

2 NZL

Niniwa Roberts (PC)	52:53
Suzie Muirhead (PC)	54:41

2 GBR

Mel Clewlow (PC)	07:19
Helen Grant (FG)	09:17

Final Score - NZL 2 GBR 2**Time** | Commentary**70:00 Incident**

Full time. A cliched `game of two halves`. All GBR in the first half, and then NZL dominating most of the second. 2-2 a fair result, although GBR will not be pleased. PC count: NZL 7 GBR 4. Field shots: NZL 1 GBR 7.

69:41 Great stick save by King on the line who then dives to clear the loose ball. The pressure on GBR enormous with the local NZL crowd very loud.

68:46 NZL push down the left on a counterattack and they earn a corner from a GBR foot. Their 7th corner and 6th for the half.

66:00 GBR still in control of the ball and have the field position. NZL struggling to get the ball deep into attack with GBR defenders pushed forward.

63:21 GBR have pushed NZL back and have the ball in their attacking half. Pressure on NZL now to hold out a rejuvenated GBR attack.

62:41 GBR with their first field shot for some time with a Smith reverse stick shot from wide left. Clarke (NZL GK) makes an easy save.

59:35 NZL have GBR pinned in their defensive half. GBR happy to fall away into a zone press, and NZL currently not rushing into attack.

57:25 NZL miss the trap and GBR regain the ball. A bad miss for NZL who could have really put the sword into the GBR game plan. Amazing comeback from NZL after being well out of the game at half time.

56:26 Its all NZL now as GBR are reeling. They earn their 6th corner from a tough GBR tackle outside the circle.

54:41 Goal

NZL captain Muirhead scores a rebound goal on the left after the first shot is saved by Rose.

54:19 NZL into attack after the restart and they earn their 5th corner from a GBR foot. NZL playing very confidently now.

52:53 Goal

Roberts-Lang smashes the shot past Rose`s pads. The crowd find their voice at last.

52:28 The variation back to the pushout is well read by GBR. Another NZL corner after the ball is raised by GBR.

51:59 NZL corner after a Rose (GBR GK) raised ball from a NZL hit from outside the circle.

51:30 GBR leaving 1 player high (Bennett), playing with 10 man defence. NZL have the ball deep in attack.

50:24 An even game continues with each team having time in attack and even field position. NZL have found their confidence after the half time break. GBR has relaxed their midfield pressure allowing NZL room.

44:54 Roberts (NZL) smashes a shot wide right of the goal after a midfield intercept and pass by Muirhead (NZL captain).

43:51 A slow paced game so far this half with both teams happy to clear the ball down their attacking end without buildup. NZL with the better field position in the last 3 mins.

40:03 GBR have pushed into attack after the positive NZL start. They have the ball in their attacking half.

37:06 The hard shot goes wide right.

36:55 NZL off to a good start and they earn their 1st corner for the half and 2nd for the game.

35:00 Incident

Half time. A dominant start by GBR who could well have been further ahead had they finished some chances. PC count: NZL 1 GBR 4. Field shots: NZL 0 GBR 5.

34:35 A much more even game in the last 7 mins in terms of ball possession. GBR still with the field position advantage, keeping NZL out of deep defence and attacking their circle.

32:08 GBR push into attack and Simpson almost scores on her reverse after a sharp pass from Cullen. Her hard shot just goes wide.

30:28 NZL with the ball deep in attack but still unable to penetrate their circle. Often their last pass or hit is lifted ruled dangerous which is wasteful.

28:21 NZL have fought their way back into the game but only as far as the midfield. No circle penetrations for NZL for some time. GBR stable in defence.

23:41 Its still GBR controlling the game with another good chance to score from a Wright pass to King alone in the circle. King misses the trap.

19:04 Wright shoots for GBR and just misses wide right. GBR looking very dangerous all half. After some respite from the pressure 7 mins ago, NZL again struggling to move into attack.

15:55 The variation attempt back to the pushout is foiled by Clarke who also saves a sharp rebound shot. NZL regain possession.

15:09 GBR earns their 4th corner after NZL hit the ball away after a GBR free hit. Bad mistake for NZL.

- 14:18** GBR miss the corner trap and NZL manage to counterattack themselves deep into their forwardline.
- 13:51** GBR counterattack and earn their 3rd corner after Clarke (NZL GK) became tangled with some GBR forwards.
- 13:13** The first shot is saved by Rose (GBR GK) and Walton`s rebound shot sails wide right. A bad miss for NZL in an open net.
- 12:26** NZL earn the 1st corner after a strong run from Naylor (NZL). GBR foot.
- 11:48** NZL into attack for the first time in the game although GBR make a dispossessing tackle before they reach the circle.
- 09:17** **Goal**
Grant scores GBR`s 2nd goal from a tap-in on the right post after a left wing cross. Its been all GBR so far who are showing good form early.
- 07:19** **Goal**
Clewlow scores off a direct strike past Clarke`s (NZL GK) pads.
- 06:45** Its all GBR with NZL under pressure in deep defence. GBR earn their 2nd corner from a NZL raised ball.
- 03:42** The variation back to Bennett on the pushout goes wide left. NZL regain possession.
- 03:13** NZL off to nervous start with GBR deep in attack. GBR earn their first corner for the game from a NZL foot.
- 01:42** A large crowd has come in to see their home team take on GBR. GBR is the top ranked team at this tournament although has had varied performances of late. A big game for NZL.