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## Olympic Hockey Qualifier Women, Manukau, Auckland

**Match 19**  
**Wednesday 24 March 2004**

### Ireland 0 - 2 Great Britain

Anna Bennett FG 19m  
Jane Smith PC 65m

#### Match Summary

Great Britain joined a three-way race at the top of Pool A but must rely on the home team defeating Germany to remain in one of the important top two positions. Great Britain controlled the match throughout the first half and looked dangerous in attack as the ball found the midfield with ease. A pair of poor Great Britain misses was covered by Anna Bennett's vital goal to relieve the pressure on the tournament's top-ranked team. A string of superb saves by Ireland goalkeeper Angela Platt kept the score close deep into the match despite Great Britain threatening to score the bag of multiple goals that looked inevitable in the first half. Jane Smith's deceptive penalty corner variation late in the match opened a two-goal lead and importantly moved Great Britain closer to one of the automatic qualifying spots in their pool. However if they converted a fraction more of their opportunities their chances of avoiding the playoff on Friday's would have doubled. The Great Britain backline trio of Kate Walsh, Crista Cullen and Emma Rochlin were impenetrable at the back and barely gave Ireland a chance. Ireland play USA in one of Friday's playoff matches.

#### Quotes

"We were not as sharp as against Germany because we knew that the match wouldn't make a difference to our position. I knew that and the players knew that as well. We defended really well and our goalkeeper was outstanding, but I thought a lot of their shots weren't placed very well."

On USA (next match): "We know each other very well. We played each other in January and they beat us. But we had a different team then. I hope we can play with more creativity. They are meticulous in a lot of their play and their corners are very good."

**Riet Kuper, IRE Coach**

"I am not satisfied with a 2-0 win given that we had 18 shots at goal. Platt, the Ireland goalkeeper, was outstanding and she saved two or three good shots. I would have been much happier with four or five on the board but the first priority was the three points."

"Technically we were much better today. We transferred the ball much better. I wanted to stretch the Ireland defence and play with width. We did that."

"The preparation for the next match won't change regardless of our situation."

**Tricia Heberle, GBR Coach**

#### Stats

0 from 1	Penalty corners	1 from 8
0 from 0	Penalty strokes	0 from 0
0 from 1	Field goal shots	1 from 18

#### Penalty cards

#### Next match

v USA TBC  
Friday 26 March – 12pm



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