

## **GB v Switzerland**

### **Match 2 – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

#### **GB 3-0 Switzerland (25-21, 25-22, 25-20)**

Great Britain women completed a double victory in the two-match international series at K2 Crawley by seeing off a strong Swiss side in straight sets.

With some strong serving and solid blocking, GB set up the cornerstone for their victory and coach Audrey Cooper even had time to give 17 year-old setter Megan Viggars some court time at the end of the final set.

GB took a firm grip at the start of the match with some solid serving from Vicky Palmer taking them to 6-2 early in the first set. Switzerland closed it to 9-8 but, with captain Lynne Beattie on the service line, GB stretched to 13-8 - a Rachel Bragg spike forcing a Swiss timeout and then Beattie serving an ace. GB had a firm control on the set and terrific pick-ups from Beattie and Maria Bertelli in the most memorable rally of the set kept their advantage before setter Lucy Wicks showed great awareness at the net with her second ball attack to make it 18-11. Palmer then piled on more pressure by serving an ace. But Switzerland, to their credit, refused to give up on the set. Trailing 16-23, they scored five unanswered points including a service ace from Elena Steinemann to close the gap to two points. Bragg swung the momentum back GB's way with a smash off the block and Jen Taylor came on to serve the final point - Swiss libero Melanie Pauli unable to control the serve as GB closed out the set 25-21.

Switzerland hit back in the second set to lead 5-2 but GB levelled to 7-7 before a hitting error from Beattie into the net gave Switzerland the slimmest of advantages at the first technical timeout. GB brought the set level to 15-15 before Steinemann was long with a spike and thus the home team had the one-point advantage at the technical timeout. Some strong serving from Bragg kept GB in front and forced Swiss coach Svetlana Ilic into a timeout but GB kept ahead with Wicks twice showing invention at the net to win points. As in the first set, Switzerland did not let GB claim soft points at the end of the set. The closest they came was two points at 23-21 but Grace Carter brought up set point with a well-placed crosscourt hit. Taylor stepped up again to serve for the set but this time served out. It was left to Bragg to have the final say in the set as she wiped one off the block as GB took it 25-22.

Switzerland came out of the blocks swiftly in the third set, leading 3-0, before Bragg again demonstrated her power to register GB's first response. But GB stuck to the task and had a two-point advantage at the second technical timeout, 16-14. GB then produced some strong blocking with Carter and then Taylor halting the Swiss in their tracks and it prompted another Swiss timeout at 19-15. But GB looked in control under Ciara Michel's serving. Carter produced another great hit through the middle as GB advanced to 21-15 and another Swiss timeout. Viggars came on and GB eased to within two points of victory at 23-16 but Switzerland produced some stubborn resistance which forced Cooper into a timeout to refocus. Rachel Laybourne came on to strike match point and, although Taylor was long with her service, Laybourne was on hand to seal the victory on the next point.

#### **Key Stats:**

Serve Receive:	Team: 2.10 (Bertelli 2.43 from 21 balls)
Kills/Efficiency:	Team: 35 / 19.10% (Michel 6 / 41.7%, Bragg 9 / 26.7%)
Blocks:	Team: 8 (Taylor 3)
MVP:	Ciara Michel

#### **Squad:**

**2. Lucy Wicks, 3. Nic Osborne, 4. Rachel Laybourne, 6. Jenn Taylor, 7. Maria Bertelli (Libero)  
8. Rachel Bragg, 10. Lynne Beattie (Captain), 12. Lizzie Reid, 14. Vicki Palmer, 16 Meg Viggars  
18. Grace Carter, 19. Ciara Michel**