

## **U12s Fight Back in the Rain**

The heavens opened and continued to pour throughout the match, as BWR travelled to Stamford Bridge for the latest League encounter. The girls fought back from a goal down to earn a draw with a wonder goal from Amelia, and it was a fair result as both sides were equally matched. The Friendly was a bit easier for the girls as they ran out deserved 2-0 winners with Freya getting both goals. A cold and wet morning brightened by some excellent football and another League point to add to the tally.

**Team: Annie, Rose, Emily G, Freya, Maeve, Amelia, Charlotte, Caitlin**

**Captain: Annie**

**League Match: Drew 1-1 (Amelia)**

**Friendly Match: Won 2-0 (Freya 2)**

**POM League: Caitlin.** This was a really strong defensive performance in what is only Caitlin's first League game. She was commanding at the back, putting in blocks, tackling and clearing the ball with great energy. Caitlin never stopped trying and never stopped running and was a great example to the rest of the team. An excellent display.

**POM Friendly: Freya.** Freya was full of running for the friendly and really caused lots of problems for the opposition defence. Her close control was excellent, and she took her two goals really well and could have had a few more. A great performance.

### **Match Report**

The rain started just before kick-off and never stopped all the way through the match. This made the ground and the ball really slippery, causing the goalkeepers and anyone taking a throw in lots of problems. The pitch was on quite a slope and BWR started kicking downhill in the first half. Freya started in goal and her handling, especially in the wet conditions, was excellent. Her kicks, both from the floor and from hand were strong, and she made some fine stops. Caitlin and Amelia started in defence and they quickly formed a strong partnership with strong tackling and good positional play. It was safety first with clearances which was excellent to see and they were always quick to get back in position and mark when possession was lost. In midfield, Annie and Maeve really put in the hard yards as they tried to cover every blade of grass. They tackled hard at the back but also tried to be creative up front with both trying runs down the wing and trying to link up with the strikers. Up front, Emily G and Charlotte ran the channels well, trying to hold up the ball and always looking to link up with the midfield. Rose started on the bench, but came on initially to play up front and then she moved into defence. As always her close control was excellent and she blocked and tackled really well and contributed all over the pitch. Unfortunately the girls couldn't take advantage of the slope and it finished 0-0 at half-time. In the second half the girls came under some pressure as Stamford Bridge used the slope well, against a tiring BWR side. Just when it looked like the girls had weathered the storm, a speculative long range effort from Stamford Bridge fizzed around the BWR penalty area and an opposition striker was first to the ball to tap it home. The girls didn't let their heads go down and they immediately started to press for an equaliser. A well worked corner from Emily G found Rose in space who fired an excellent shot just wide. Rose then repaid the favour, putting another corner into the box only for Emily G's shot to be blocked. The pressure started to mount as the girls forced a series of corners, and eventually they got the equaliser they deserved. A corner was only half cleared and Amelia, hovering just by the centre circle, was first to pounce on the loose ball and she sent an amazing first-time shot sailing over the home defence, and the home keeper, into the back of the net. The girls went wild with high-fives all round. There were

a few scary moments in the last few minutes as both sets of players tried to get the winning goal, but 1-1 was a fair result between two equally matched teams.

The friendly was a quick 15 mins game as the rain was still pouring down. Maeve went in goal, Caitlin and Amelia in defence, Annie and Rose in midfield and Charlotte and Freya up front. BWR had the best of the play in the first half and looked the most likely team to break the deadlock, but again they couldn't use the slope to their advantage, although they nearly scored as Freya charged down a goal-kick but sent her snapshot wide. In the second-half, Emily G came on in midfield and Rose moved up front to partner Freya. A through ball from Emily G found Freya in space in the Stamford Bridge area and she finished clinically into the top corner of the net. Freya then made it two as she managed to find some space in a crowded area and fire a shot which beat the keeper at her near post. Two really well taken goals to cap an excellent display from Freya and the team.

A well-deserved point in unpleasant and unhelpful conditions and the girls should be really proud of that. Hopefully the start of an unbeaten run! Well done girls!