

U12s Go Down Fighting

The first League fixture after the half-term holidays saw BWR travel to Wigginton to take on the Grasshoppers. An impressive first-half performance saw the girls come off at half-time all level at 0-0, but three second-half goals only partly took the shine off a fine team performance and 3-0 rather flattered the high-flying hosts. The heavens opened for the friendly as torrential rain poured down but the girls battled bravely in challenging conditions and managed a great 0-0 draw. Great performances all over the pitch and the girls should be proud of their efforts.

Team: Annie, Rose, Emily G, Freya, Maeve, Amelia, Charlotte, Isabella, Wendy

Captain: Charlotte

League Match: Lost 3-0

Friendly Match: Drew 0-0

POM League: Emily G. A change of position this week meant Emily played in midfield and she put in a superb performance. She made impressive forward runs to support the attack, tackled tenaciously in the midfield and made

excellent interceptions and challenges at the back. Emily showed fantastic commitment all over the pitch and deserved a goal to cap it off.

Match Report

BWR started the match well with some excellent pressure on the Wigginton goal. The girls were passing and moving and they have really started to appreciate the use of space and how to exploit it. Wigginton gradually came back into the game and showed that they are a top four side for a reason. Maeve had to be at her very best and her bravest to stop some threatening attacks. At the other end Emily G and Rose both had good chances. A very even half ended 0-0. For the second half, Wigginton brought on almost an entire new team, and the fresh legs made a difference as they put the BWR goal under serious pressure from the kick-off. It wasn't all one-way traffic as Charlotte, Rose and Emily had good chances and some tasty challenges from Wigginton brought a series of free-kicks but the girls couldn't take advantage. Eventually the pressure told as a Wigginton corner was deflected into the net from a Wigginton knee. The girls continued to play some good passing moves, and a lovely interplay between Isabella, Emily, Rose and Annie really showed the improvement over the season. A swift Wigginton breakaway brought the pick of the goals as a fierce shot from the edge of the area gave Maeve in goal no chance at all. A third goal followed, to give the score line a rather unfair reflection on the game, but the girls never let their heads drop and they continued to battle to the final whistle, with Emily having another chance from a free-kick and Freya also going close. It ended 3-0 but the girls had battled hard and deserved something from the game.

Maeve was in outstanding form in goal, with good handling, brave saves and effective kicking. Standout moments were two really heroic saves at the feet of onrushing forwards who didn't pull out of their challenges at all, a superb tip over and an astonishing one handed stop from a fierce goal bound shot. In defence, Amelia, Isabella and Wendy worked their socks off. Amelia was tenacious in the tackle, never gave up, and made some outstanding clearances. Isabella used her fantastic pace and excellent ball skills to boss things at the back and never looked in trouble. She also overcame an ankle injury and bravely came back on when the team needed her. Wendy, playing her first game of the season, did brilliantly and never stopped trying and competing. In midfield, Annie and Emily were both outstanding as they battled all over the pitch. They supported the defence, got stuck in in midfield, and really helped out the forwards. They put some excellent passing moves

together and both looked a classy double-act. Up front, Charlotte, Rose and Freya fought heroically to create chances against a tough Wigginton defence. Charlotte worked hard all over the pitch and had some good chances to score with a close effort from a corner being the best of them. Rose showed excellent skill around the penalty area and had some good chances herself as well as setting up Emily and Annie for good efforts. Rose was always willing to help out in defence and put in an outstanding effort. Freya was gritty and determined, and she never gave up, chasing lost causes and putting pressure on defenders and making tough tackles. She had a couple of good efforts on goal and her link up play with midfield was excellent.

The friendly was an 8 a-side game with Freya in goal, Emily, Rose and Annie in defence, Amelia and Isabella in midfield and Maeve and Charlotte up front. The game started fairly even with chances at both ends, but Wigginton's bigger squad took its toll in the second half with lots of pressure on the BWR goal. Only an outstanding goalkeeping display by Freya kept the score at 0-0, and the Wigginton team had almost given up trying to beat her at the end. The game finished 0-0 which was probably a fair reflection of the game as a whole.

A performance full of improvement against a top four side and the girls should be proud of their efforts. Well done girls!