

U12s Back To Winning Ways

It was the turn of Poppleton Tigers to visit a misty Moor Lane for a mid-table, mid-season match. A fairly even first-half was just a warm up for an excellent second-half as the girls put some lovely passing moves together, and a combination of skill and tenacity saw them run out comfortable 3-0 winners. The eight a-side friendly was really enjoyable for both sides and it fittingly ended in a one-all draw. The Poppleton team were a credit to their club, and it was a lovely morning of football for everyone.

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

Captain: Isabella

League Match: Won 3-0 (Isabella, Emily G, Rose)

Friendly Match: Drew 1-1 (Annie)

POM League: Maeve. Maeve was outstanding in defence. Her tackling, interceptions and clearances were faultless and she put so much energy and enthusiasm into her performance you could be forgiven for thinking she was everywhere. Maeve also provided the springboard for many BWR attacks as she calmly stepped out of defence and either made the forward run herself or passed the ball to a team mate where her distribution was excellent.

POM Friendly: Rose. Rose capped off an excellent performance in the League match by being outstanding in the Friendly. A first half in defence showed just how tenacious and resilient she is with tackles and challenges coming thick and fast, and a second-half in attack showed just how much skill on the ball she has, with only the post denying her a much deserved goal to match the one she scored in the League game.

Match Report

The match started evenly with both sides having their share of attacks, but without really threatening to score. Freya in goal, with Amelia and Maeve in front of her, were more than a match for the Poppleton attack, and Emily G had some long range efforts which didn't trouble the opposition keeper. As the match approached half-time, BWR started to assert some authority and the play concentrated in the Poppleton half but no clear scoring chances materialised and the half ended 0-0. The second half started, as the first had ended, with continued BWR pressure, and some good work down the right saw Maeve carry the ball out of defence, send Annie down the wing before firing in a cross that Emily G put just wide. It seemed now that it was only a matter of time before the first goal arrived, and the deadlock was broken with a lovely move from one end of the pitch to the other. A Freya kick downfield was chased down by Emily G, and laid back into Rose's path. Rose crossed the ball into the box for Isabella who put in a superb angled shot into the corner of the goal. 1-0 and nothing less than the girls deserved. The goal gave the girls belief and the passing and moving got better and better with good accurate passes and some excellent movement off the ball. A second goal wasn't long in coming and this one was down to the courage and persistence of Emily G as she shrugged off two or three strong challenges in the box to fire home from close range. The girls kept on battling and didn't relax at all as they continued to defend well from sporadic counter attacks. A third goal was another full length of the pitch move, as Freya kicked short to Isabella who was a threat down the wing all match. Isabella raced past her marker and crossed the ball in to Rose who finished clinically. It ended 3-0 and the performance, especially in the second-half, was as good as the score line.

Freya had little to do in goal, but her handling was faultless, and she commanded her area and her defenders with calm authority. Her kicking was excellent all match and she started the moves for

two of the goals. Maeve, Amelia and Emily O were rock solid in defence. Maeve put in an excellent Player of the Match performance, and Amelia wasn't too far behind her with superb tackles and clearances and she worked really hard for the team. Emily O matched them in tackles and challenges and she made some great interceptions and clearances. In midfield, Annie and Isabella ran their socks off, battling in midfield, helping out in defence, and then supporting the attack. Isabella's goal was well taken and well deserved, and Annie was a class act in the centre of midfield. Up front Emily G, Rose and Charlotte worked really hard, and there are some good partnerships forming. Emily G wasn't afraid of taking a shot from range, and her link up play, and movement were excellent. She dropped back into midfield and defence when needed and she made her goal through tenacity and force of will. Rose was excellent in and around the area, with great ball skills and her link up play is improving with every game. She got a well-deserved goal to show how deadly she can be in front of goal. Charlotte put in a real shift in attack, tracking back when required, chasing lost causes, and generally giving the Poppleton defence a really hard time. Her movement was excellent as she was always available to receive the ball, and she made some great runs into space.

The friendly was an 8 a-side game with Emily G starting in goal, Emily O and Rose in defence, Amelia, Freya and Annie in midfield and Isabella and Charlotte up front. The game started with BWR still in command and the girls scored first with Isabella and Freya combining to set Annie up to finish with a lovely side-footed pass into the net. The early goal relaxed the girls a little too much and a defensive mishap presented Poppleton with a chance in the box and the opposition forward gave Emily G no chance. There was just time for Charlotte to hit the post with an excellent first time shot before the Ref blew for half-time. For the second half it was all change again as Isabella had to go, and Poppleton lent us a player, Scarlet, to keep it 8 a-side. Charlotte volunteered to go in goal, Amelia and Emily O in defence, Scarlet, Emily G and Annie in midfield, and Freya and Rose up front. There were chances at both ends, with probably the best being a lovely run and shot from Rose which hit the post, but it stayed all-square and it was probably a fair reflection on the match.