

## **Bish Battle in Vain**

A visit to the home of the reigning champions, York RI, was never going to be easy and so it proved. The girls battled hard all over the pitch and they never gave up, but York RI were just too strong, although the final score of 7-0 was rather flattering as the girls performance was better than the score line suggests. The friendly was a much closer affair with York RI winning 1-0 in an 8-a-side match. Lots of positives for the girls and that first win, and goal, will hopefully come soon.

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

**League Match: Lost 7-0**

**Friendly: Lost 1-0**

**Captain: Abbi**

**Player of the League Match: Annie.** Annie epitomised the battling spirit of the team. She never stopped running and trying as she kept going right to the end. Annie tackled, tracked back and marked all game and even found time to launch counter attacks and support the striker. A great attitude and a great performance.

**Player of the Friendly Match: Charlotte.** This was Charlotte's competitive debut and she ran herself into the ground as she popped up all over the pitch. Charlotte never gave up and never stopped trying. She made some lovely neat touches and she could have got a goal with a bit more luck. A great display.

### **Match Report**

The opening passage of play was fairly even, but it didn't take long for York RI to start applying the pressure and an early shot against the post was a warning for BWR. The opening goal came soon after, but the girls didn't let their heads go down and they continued to try to play good football. Set-pieces were causing BWR problems and the next two goals were from throw-ins, before York RI scored a fluky fourth when a superb Freya save landed in the path of a York RI forward for a tap in. The half ended with another great save from Freya, this time from point-blank range to keep the score at 4-0 at the break. Unfortunately the second-half didn't start well, with York RI scoring a freak goal from the kick-off, but again the girls picked themselves up brilliantly. A sixth York RI goal came before the girls started to exert some pressure of their own. Annie, Emily G and Charlotte combined really well to set up a chance in the opposition area but the ball didn't run kindly. Emily G was pushed in the back and the Ref awarded a free-kick to BWR. Emily picked herself up and took the kick herself with her shot going just wide. Another York RI throw-in led to a seventh goal, but the girls kept battling and Emily G had a great run and shot to give York RI a late scare. It ended 7-0.

It was Freya's turn in goal and she did really well, with great saves and some lovely catches. Her kicking and distribution were excellent and she deserves great credit for keeping going under a barrage of shots. Abbi, Emily G and Maeve started in defence and they all played well against fast, skilful opposition. Abbi was excellent with her tackling and interceptions, and she has now developed a great long throw which the team used to good effect. Emily G used her pace at the back to make lots of last ditch tackles and she did an excellent job further forward later in the match as the girls searched for that elusive first goal. Maeve put in a superb shift, tackling, tracking back, intercepting, and she is now putting a bit of grit and determination into her play which was great to see. Starting in defence, Annie and Emily O had the unenviable task of helping out the defence and trying to support the attack. This they did with great energy and determination. Annie covered

every blade of grass and never stopped running. Emily O is quickly acclimatising to the rigours of competitive football, and her tackling and reading of the game are getting better with every match. She never stopped trying and made a number of important tackles and interceptions. Up front, Rose had the thankless task of playing the lone striker role and she worked so hard to pose a threat to York RI, and help out her team. She battled all over the pitch and did a brilliant job. Amelia and Charlotte came on first change in midfield and striker respectively, and they both played with lots of energy and passion. Amelia worked really hard in midfield, tackling and marking and always willing to cover a team mate if they were dragged out of position. Charlotte ran herself into the ground and she showed some great touches and brilliant determination.

The friendly was an 8 a-side match, with Maeve in goal, Rose, Emily O and Emily G in defence, a midfield of Annie, Charlotte and Amelia, and Freya as lone striker. An early York RI corner brought the only goal but the girls battled on. Maeve brilliantly tipped a fierce shot over the bar before Annie setup Freya for a chance but a BWR goal would just not come. In the second half, Freya had another good shot after an Amelia through ball and then Annie had a lovely run and cross but with no joy in front of goal. A late Freya shot was the girls' last effort and the game ended 1-0.

The girls battled bravely and never stopped trying and never gave up and those attributes will turn into success on the pitch eventually. Well done girls!

Regards,

Andy