

Cup Exit for U12s

A really tough draw saw current League leaders Fulford visit Moor Lane in the Quarter Finals of the League Cup. It was another marvellous performance from the girls, strong in defence and sharp on the counter attack, as they gave Fulford a real scare. It was 0-0 at half time but a goal early in the second-half gave Fulford the lead and despite concerted pressure by BWR to get the equaliser, the high flying visitors held on for the win. A chaotic friendly match saw Freya get a well taken goal as Fulford won 5-1. The girls kept up their excellent defensive performances of recent games but with no luck in front of goal it was another Cup defeat for BWR but lots to be proud of.

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

Captain: Amelia

League Match: Lost 1-0

Friendly Match: Lost 5-1 (Freya)

POM Cup: Emily. Emily is really growing into the sweeper role and she was again instrumental in a magnificent defensive display. She used her pace to great effect with strong tackling and brilliant last ditch challenges. Her commitment to the cause was shown in blood and bruises as she took a ball in the face and one to her back as she threw everything in the way of the Fulford attack. An inspirational performance.

POM Friendly: Maeve. Maeve produced an incredible goalkeeping performance in the friendly as a more relaxed approach to defending allowed Fulford to fire shots at will at the BWR goal. Maeve made excellent save after excellent save and she kept the score respectable. An excellent display.

Match Report

After conceding 16 goals in the League matches against Fulford this season it was always going to be a daunting task to get something from the game, but the new found defensive solidity gave the girls hope. The match started with the predictable Fulford pressure, but the defensive trio of Emily as sweeper, Maeve and Amelia held firm and Freya looked strong and confident in goal. Freya was called on to make an early save as she dived bravely at the feet of a Fulford attacker, but the girls kept their defensive shape well and restricted the visitors to half chances and long range efforts. On the counter attack the forward three of Annie and Isabella in midfield, and Rose up front, were always a threat, and a strong run and cross by Annie set up Isabella for an effort on goal which went agonisingly wide. Another break saw Annie, Isabella and Rose link up brilliantly with a lovely passing move but again the girls had no luck in front of goal. Fulford were getting frustrated by the excellent BWR play and the girls went in at half time 0-0. The second half started really positively as Isabella ran down the wing, beat the Fulford defender, and crossed for Rose whose first time shot was desperately blocked. That shocked Fulford into greater efforts and they hit the bar with a long range effort before a Fulford attacker finally got some room in the box and fired in an unstoppable shot from close range. The girls didn't let their heads go down and they tried their best to get the equaliser they deserved. Annie had a good shot saved, and a fine run by Isabella ended with a shot blocked by an increasingly rattled Fulford defence. The girls tried their best but Fulford hung on to their lead and it finished 1-0.

Freya in goal put in another excellent performance. She is a real safe pair of hands, with excellent reactions and awareness. Her kicking was faultless and she was confident and assured. The back three of Emily, Maeve and Amelia were outstanding, tackling, marking and pressing for the whole game. The midfield pair of Annie and Isabella covered every blade of grass at least 5 times and never stopped either helping out the defence or launching counter attacks. Isabella didn't let a

nasty cut on her knee slow her down, and Annie was again brave in the face of some intimidating challenges. Up front Rose defended from the front, closing down defenders and chasing lost causes and she never stopped trying. A special mention for Wendy who twice came on in emergency situations as Rose and Emily had injuries. She is a true team player and never complained about being sub or playing up front, and her commitment and attitude is never less than excellent.

After such a high pressure Cup tie, the friendly was a wild affair with only a few players taking the game seriously. Maeve was keeper, Amelia, Wendy and Rose were in defence, Isabella and Annie in midfield, and Emily and Freya up front. It was 2-0 at half time, and then 4-0 before BWR finally got a goal. Emily tackled the Fulford captain on the edge of the visitors' box and set up Freya who finished with style as she fired the ball into the top right hand corner of the net. Fulford added a late goal to make the final score 5-1.

The Fulford coach said at the end of the Cup tie that they had been made to look ordinary by the BWR performance and the girls should be massively proud of their efforts as every one of them gave 100%. Well done girls!