

U12s Finish Season with Win

The last League match of the season saw the girls travel to Poppleton for BWR's first ever evening kick-off. With strong winds and a low setting sun the conditions were challenging, but two goals from Emily, including a superb individual winner with almost the last kick of the game, meant the girls finished the season with a well-deserved 2-1 win. A short, fun, friendly finished all square 0-0. It was a fantastic team performance with everybody contributing and the girls finally got the reward for all their hard work.

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

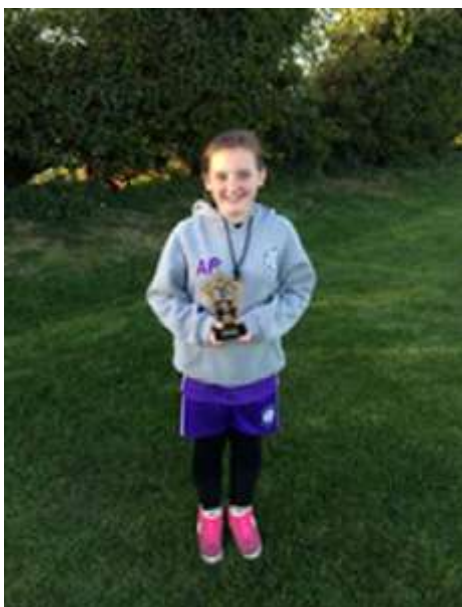
Captain: Emily

League Match: Won 2-1 (Emily - 2)

Friendly Match: Drew 0-0



POM League: This player put in one of the performances of the season as she led from the front and refused to give up. Her first goal gave the girls confidence and her second won the match. In between she never stopped running and she took on the Captain's armband with confidence and leadership. An inspirational performance.



POM League: This player put in one of the bravest performances of the season. Playing her first full game since her return from injury, she challenged, tackled and intercepted and showed all the talent the team have been missing. Her distribution from the back was excellent and she was enormously brave to carry on to the end with a really painful back injury. A superb display.

Match Report

The girls started the game with the wind at their backs as they tried to take early advantage of the conditions and they dominated the opening exchanges. Annie hit the post with an excellent snap shot from the edge of the area, just before the move that brought the opening goal after only 3 minutes. Isabella combined intelligently with Annie to set up Emily on the edge of the area. Emily's powerful shot

was only half-stopped by the Keeper and the ball squeezed inside the post. The early goal gave the girls confidence and they continued to press forward. Isabella had a fine effort saved before Emily and Isabella combined to give Rose an effort on goal which went just wide. Poppleton were dangerous on the counter-attack and Amelia and Abbi had to be on their toes to protect Freya in goal, but she wasn't really tested in a half dominated by BWR. The half ended with BWR 1-0 up. Towards the end of the half the girls had started to look tired and this continued at the start of the second half as Poppleton came into the game, now with the wind advantage. BWR were still threatening the Poppleton goal, with Annie making a brave run and shot which was turned round the post by the Keeper, and Isabella making a fine run and cross, but the pressure was mounting on the BWR goal. Freya had to make a series of excellent saves before Poppleton finally got their equaliser when a cross sneaked its way through a crowd of players for an unmarked opposition player to finish from close range. After being in the lead for so long this was a blow for the girls but they didn't let their heads go down. Injuries started to play a part too as Isabella had to come off because of illness and Wendy came on and did a brilliant job for the team. This meant there was no sub available for Abbi who bravely struggled on to the end with a nasty back injury. As the game drew to a close the atmosphere grew tenser and the whole team were playing their hearts out. Emily had a fine free kick fly across the penalty area and it just needed a touch to go in, and at the other end Freya had to make a really brave save to keep BWR in the game. It came down to the final seconds and a piece of individual brilliance to decide the match. Emily won the ball on the left hand touch line and surged up the wing. She went past two players before cutting in on her right foot, past a third, and rifled the ball into the net on the goalkeepers near post. Everyone went wild! There was barely time for Poppleton to kick off before the final whistle and pandemonium broke out. The girls had thoroughly deserved the win but Poppleton had played really well and made the girls compete right to the end. An excellent game between two evenly matched teams.

Freya in goal was excellent again and continues to show what a cool and confident player she is. Her handling was safe and assured and she was really unlucky not to get a clean sheet, with some excellent saves when the team needed her. Abbi and Amelia at the back were rock solid. Abbi was forceful with her challenges and intelligent with her distribution, confidently bringing the ball out of defence time and again. Amelia seemed to be first to every ball and she made some excellent interceptions and clearances. The midfield trio of Annie, Emily and Isabella were outstanding. They never stopped running and showed incredible resilience to keep going. Annie battled all over the pitch and she has finally started to shoot on sight and it very nearly paid off. Isabella showed her class with some superb runs and was easily the most skilful player on the pitch. Up front Rose ran herself into the ground, making intelligent forward runs and creating problems for the Poppleton defence. Towards the end of the game she had to drop back into midfield and she continued to put in 100% for the team. Wendy was our super sub, having to come on in various positions to cover injuries and illness. She filled in brilliantly, working her socks off for the team with intelligent running and some really neat touches. The whole team gave everything they had in a superb performance.

The friendly was a quick 10 minute, 8 a-side, match. Emily was in goal, Amelia and Wendy in defence, Rose, Annie and Esme (a Poppleton loanee) in midfield and Freya and Isabella up front. Abbi wasn't well enough to take part. The whole team had fun and played well. It finished 0-0, which was a fair result.

The last League match of the season brought goals, drama, excitement and a win! The victory moved BWR up two places in the League so that the team finish 9th overall. It was fantastic game and a great way to finish the League campaign. Well done girls!