

## Cup Glory for U12 Girls: 1 Feb 2014

The U12s were in dominant form on Saturday as they avenged their narrow defeat at the hands of Tockwith in the last meeting and at the same time emphatically secured their place in the quarter finals of the Cup competition. 5-0 is the best scoreline achieved by this team to date, but it was the manner of performance which really stood out. Wonderful attacking flair moving forwards and every player got back to cover when needed which meant that Tockwith did not have a single shot on goal in the entire league match. Special congratulations have to go to the spine of the team, Millie C for four superb goals, Esther for dominating the midfield and Rebecca for sweeping up at the back. It looks like we have Brayton Belles in the next round which will be a massive test for the girls, but if they can maintain this kind of form and commitment, anything is possible!

**Team :** Bella, Rebecca, Anna, Ella, Millie C, Holly L, Holly Ch, Esther, Alice

**League Match:** WON 5-0 (Millie C 4, Holly L)

**Friendly :** WON 2-0 (Holly L, Bella)

**Captain :** Esther



**Player of the Match:** She switched over to the left for this game and made an immediate impact with her pace down that flank and her willingness to cut inside and attack the goal. Great positioning helped her get on the end of a number of crosses and she finished off a wonderful team move beautifully to secure our 3rd goal. She also pressed the Tockwith right wingers very effectively keeping them quiet for the duration of the match.

No rain thankfully on Saturday, but a strong chilly wind did not make it ideal for playing (or watching) football. It was Bish who adapted to the conditions better and it was evident that the girls were fired up for the game from the get go with memories of the narrow 2-3 defeat to this opposition a few weeks ago still fresh on their minds. Holly L, Holly Ch, Alice pressed high up the pitch and did not let Tockwith settle on the ball. This tactic proved very effective in maintaining possession and territorial advantage and much of the play in the first half was in the Tockwith half. The Tockwith defence were well

organised and a steady goalkeeper kept this trio from scoring. Esther was also excellent at winning ball particularly from Tockwith goal kicks and denying the opposition any decent possession. In the end the pressure paid off and it was Millie C who opened up the scoring when she found herself with a yard of space in the area after an excellent pass from Alice on the right. She took a couple of touches to control the ball and then rifled a shot past the keeper. Not long afterwards, Millie added her second. This time she created the opportunity herself with a determined run through the middle, riding two tackles before sprinting clear of the defence. One on one against the keeper there was only ever going to be one outcome and a cool finish saw us go 2-0 up.

Tockwith tried to respond at this point, but Esther was fantastic at keeping their best player in check and the defence of Anna, Rebecca and Ella proved to be rock solid. Rebecca led the way with her faultless defending. Anna was excellent at moving the ball from defence to attack with some perfectly weighted passes and Ella is proving to be one of our most effective tacklers, using her physical strength and determination to see off any potential threats. This left Bella with little to do, but she did what was required of her, gathering and distributing the ball well and marshalling her defence effectively.

Our third goal was a turning point and made it difficult for Tockwith to get back into the game. This was a superb team goal. Esther stole possession in midfield and then exchanged passes with Alice who found Holly Ch on the right. She delivered a pin point cross that cut through the defenders and evaded the keeper and Holly L was perfectly positioned to tap into the empty net. Just before half time, Millie C struck again to secure her second first half track in three games. A great turn and strike from the edge of the area that curled into the top corner which drew admiration from both sets of supporters. 4-0 at half time and we were in control.

The focus in the second half was not to become complacent and concentrate on keeping a clean sheet. The fact that this was achieved without a shot on goal by Tockwith is a testament to superb defensive work from Rebecca, Ella and Anna and another dominant display from Esther in midfield. We had a number of chances to add to our goal tally with Holly Ch and Alice coming very close, but their shots just went wide. In the end it was Millie who added our fifth with a low shot into the corner. There were wild celebrations after the final whistle including a cartwheel or two. Richly deserved result coming out of an excellent performance.

The friendly was another great game with Tockwith posing more of a threat. Bella moved into the striker position and showed her natural ability to get on the end of crosses. One beautiful volley was well saved by the Tockwith keeper, but there was no stopping her second effort, a first time shot low into the corner direct from a cross by Rebecca who had an excellent stint in midfield. Holly L added a second goal with a nice dribble and shot that completed her Player of the Match performance. Tockwith did open up our defence in the friendly and had a great chance to score when the striker managed to get behind our defence. However her fierce shot was fantastically saved by Ella's super quick reactions, stretching out her left foot to block the ball and then diving on it to make it safe.

All in all, a fantastic morning of football for the girls and they should be proud of themselves.

Josh