

## U13s Go Close Against Champions



With second place in the League already secured, it was just pride to play for as champions elect York RI visited the Junior School on Saturday. A superb display from the girls restricted York RI to just a single first half goal. Some excellent pressure on the York RI goal in the second half meant it was never comfortable for the visitors, but the equaliser just wouldn't come, and York RI made it 2-0 with the last kick of the game. A brilliant display by the girls which showcased all the improvements they've made this season.

**Team: Freya, Emily G, Isabella, Rose, Amelia, Annie, Maeve, Emily S**

**Captain: Amelia**

**League Match: Lost 2-0**



**POM League: The Whole Team. It was just impossible to pick one player after such a superb performance. Freya in goal was brilliant with some stunning reaction saves and her catching and general control of the ball was simply outstanding. Emily G played the sweeper role with calm authority, her pace and quick reactions creating a formidable last line of defence. Rose was excellent in defence, tackling hard, putting in some superb blocks, and her clearances were terrific. Captain Amelia led by example with some tenacious and brave tackling and she never stopped giving 100% all game. Maeve was strong in the tackle with some excellent runs forward when asked to play in midfield. Annie covered every inch of the pitch several times as she gave everything for the team, tackling and blocking in defence and then supporting every attack, she ran herself into the ground. Isabella also put in a tremendous amount of work, helping out the defence but also posing a threat on the counter-attack. Her skill and pace when going forward frightened the life out of the opposition. Emily S was a constant threat up front with some strong running and some great efforts from free-kicks. She was really unlucky not to score, which she and the team would have thoroughly deserved.**

#### Match Report

The match started with the expected early pressure from York RI but the girls defended well and were always looking for the quick counter-attack. Isabella had an early shot, after good work by Emily S down the wing, and Emily S sent a free-kick just over the bar after a push just outside the box. The girls were constantly under pressure and only a brilliant reaction save from Freya kept York RI from opening the scoring. Another goalmouth scramble brought another superb save from Freya but the follow-up shot was just too close and too powerful and York RI took the lead. The game evened out

after the goal as the girls stepped up a gear but Freya was still the busier Keeper and had to be at her best again to produce another excellent save late on in the half.

The second half started with lots of BWR pressure on the visitors' goal. Isabella had a fine shot saved and Emily S put the follow up shot just wide. Emily S had another free-kick in a dangerous position after a nasty foul on Isabella, but it was deflected for a corner. Isabella had a good effort from a corner before putting in an excellent run and shot. Emily S was also causing the opposition problems with a fine run and then having a good shot after excellent build up play by Emily G and Isabella. This was BWR's time to score but the girls just lacked that little bit of luck in front of goal. York RI came back into it and a wonderful last ditch block by Rose prevented the visitors increasing their lead. Freya was still making some wonderful saves, and the defensive pairing of Amelia and Maeve looked solid, as Emily G was pushed further forward in search of the equaliser. Emily G got her chance with only a couple of minutes to go as she beat a couple of York RI players inside her own half and headed for the opposition goal, but under intense pressure from two covering defenders she dragged her shot wide. Then with the final kick of the game, some hesitant defending gave the York RI star striker a little too much time and space in the BWR penalty area and she blasted the ball into the top corner, giving Freya no chance. It ended 2-0 but it is a measure of how far the girls have progressed this season that they had pushed the champions so close and so very nearly got something from the game.

Well done girls!