

## U14s Back To Winning Ways

After two postponements since Christmas, the girls finally got to play a game as they travelled to Kirk Deighton on Saturday. An early goal from Elen settled the nerves as she danced through to score an excellent solo goal, but chances came and went with BWR unable to add to the score. KDR were creating opportunities of their own and Freya had to be at her best to keep the girls ahead. As the half ended Amy L got a nasty knock on her ankle but bravely stayed on just long enough to fire a lovely shot from outside the area into the bottom corner to make it 2-0. The second half saw the hosts get back into the match as they pulled a goal back early, but Emily quickly restored the two-goal cushion with a fine breakaway goal to make it 3-1. BWR created a host of chances but just couldn't kill the game off with KDR being a constant threat on the counter-attack. The girls managed the game well in the final 10 minutes and ran out comfortable winners. A tricky occasion after so many weeks without a game but the girls battled well and deserved the win.



**Team:** Amelia, Emily, Robyn, Amy L, Abi, Elen, Freya, Koré, Rose, Isabella, Amy G

**Captain:** Freya

**League Match:** Won 3-1 (Elen, Amy L, Emily)



**Player of the Match:** An excellent performance from this player as she first showed tenacity and courage in defence and then pace and skill up front after taking over the striking duties when Amy got injured. This player's excellent tackling got the team out of some dangerous situations and she showed a cool head to take her goal. A superb all-round display.

### **Match Report**

The game started with some early pressure from KDR but the girls quickly took control and the match settled into a pattern of BWR pressure with the hosts threatening on the counter attack. An early shot from Amy L showed the attacking intentions of the girls and it went just wide of the post. An early goal was needed to give the girls confidence after so long without a game, and Elen duly obliged, scoring her fifth goal in five games. A superb interception by Rose in midfield fed the ball into Elen's feet and she dribbled the ball round two defenders and the keeper, and coolly slotted the ball home. 1-0 and no more than the girls deserved. A series of chances came and went but the girls were unable to add to the score with Robyn hitting the post, after good work by Amy L, a superb effort from Elen being saved and Amy L firing just wide, being the best. On the counter attack, KDR nearly drew level as only a last-ditch tackle by Emily stopped their striker getting a shot away when clean through on goal. Making her debut for BWR was Amy G and she nearly capped her first appearance with a goal as good work by Elen and Isabella set her up for a shot on the edge of the area but it flew agonisingly wide. With just a minute to go to half-time, Freya launched a kick down field which dropped nicely for Amy L. She managed to fire in a superb shot from outside the area, into the bottom corner of the goal, despite being injured after a heavy challenge just minutes before. It was 2-0 to BWR but Amy L couldn't continue and had to come off injured. There was just time for Freya to make an outstanding save when confronted one on one by the KDR striker, before the half-time whistle blew.

KDR kicked downhill in the second half and it didn't take them long to pull a goal back to make the score 2-1. The girls immediately went on the attack and Isabella had a good chance from an Elen cross but it flew wide. Emily, now playing as striker, restored the two-goal lead with a fine solo goal, as she used quick feet in the centre circle and then beat the defence for pace before coolly slotting the ball home. KDR came back strong, using the slope to their advantage, but Freya in goal was

excellent, with superb handling and great command of her penalty area. The defence was brilliant throughout the game. Abi and Amelia put in some crunching tackles and strong clearances and Rose marshalled the defence superbly, always there to cover and help her team mates. In centre midfield, Elen had another superb game, with her heading ability standing out, but also her general all round display inspiring the girls around her. Koré was also outstanding and this was probably her best performance to date as she tackled and closed down the opposition and never stopped running for the team. On the wings, Isabella and Robyn were always a threat going forward and tried to show their excellent skills despite a cloggy pitch. They also put in a shift defensively and worked their socks off. Up front, Amy L was a constant handful for the KDR defence, with brave running and intelligent forward play, and she took her goal incredibly well to say she could hardly stand at that point in the match. A special mention for Amy G who slotted into the side with great enthusiasm and commitment and made an excellent contribution in her first game. The girls created further chances, Emily putting a shot just wide, and then an Emily run and shot which was saved, but couldn't add to their lead. With the KDR threat up front running out of steam, the girls managed the last ten minutes of the match well and finished 3-1 winners.



The girls played well without really hitting top gear, but this was an important victory after so long without a game, and the experience will only help for the games to come. Well done girls!