

7 September 2019 – U12 Bees v Witton Albion

The Bees began brightly against Witton Albion at Hartford, with Millie repeatedly winning the ball back and linking well with debutantes Menna and Ruby who impressed with their energy in getting the team onto the attack, Menna being very unlucky not to open the scoring as a defender cleared her shot off the line with the keeper beaten. Georgia was a constant threat with her skill and pace and also delivered a number of dangerous corners. Ella and Elsa were working well to defend the left flank and captain Amelia made a number of crucial interceptions while also marshalling her defensive colleagues. Sarina continued her fine form in goal with impressive handling and concentration, and Daisy combined well with her to use the new short goal-kick to launch herself upfield. The Bees spent most of the half on the front foot and were unlucky to trail one-nil at half-time.

The second half began similarly evenly, and the Bees got their reward when Georgia cut in from the left and supplied a fine pass across the edge of the box to find Emma unmarked on the right-hand side of the area; Emma took a touch before applying a stunning finish across the goalkeeper into the top corner. At the back, another debutante, Amelie, put in a couple of crunching tackles to halt Witton's dangerous left winger, and Sophia carried on where Millie had left off with simple passing in the middle of the pitch. The big pitch finally took its toll on the Bees who tired slightly and conceded two more goals late so that the final scoreline didn't really reflect the close nature of the game.

The scoreline was especially harsh on second-half goalkeeper Ella who, after already making a couple of good saves, came to the team's rescue again when she bravely challenged Witton's onrushing centre-forward to successfully keep the ball out of her team's net. Unfortunately, Ella suffered a small fracture to her left arm in the process. Best wishes for a speedy recovery from all the girls, parents and from Witton too.

An encouraging start for the Bees, with plenty of positives to work on in the coming weeks.