

## 14 September 2019 – U12 Bees v Appleton Arrows

The Bees got their first point of the season against Appleton Arrows with a determined performance, with good communication and teamwork, and were very unlucky not to take all three.

Raphi and Millie dominated the middle of the pitch right from the start and carved out three or four great chances for themselves and centre-forward Emma in an impressive opening 15 minutes. Millie and Emma were only denied by great diving saves by Appleton's keeper, and Raphi only narrowly missed the bottom corner twice. Ruby was a constant threat down the left with her trademark energy to the fore after some great touches to spin away from markers. On the opposite flank, Sophia grew into the game with some important tackles and constantly looking to feed Emma down the right touchline.

At the back, Amelia, Daisy and Elsa repeatedly stifled Appleton's attacks with belligerence, great reading of the game and no-nonsense clearances, Elsa being especially impressive with her left foot. Behind them, Sarina was a model of concentration, coming off her line several times to collect dangerous through balls before launching the Bees downfield once more.

In the second half, Appleton posed a slightly greater threat, but the Bees continued to pour forward. Millie and Raphi were still looking to slide the ball between defenders for Emma, and Appleton's defence was stretched repeatedly, only just keeping the Bees out on four or five occasions. A couple of corners from Ruby caused havoc and Millie was unlucky to not to open the scoring with a header at the near post.

The girls tired a bit in the sunshine, but the backline just about held firm against three or four dangerous breaks and one lengthy bout of ping-pong following a corner. Sarina made an important tackle inside the six-yard box, Daisy and Amelia covered for each other to run a couple of attacks out of play and Elsa shrugged off an accidental elbow to the face to keep her opposing number well-shackled.

A nil-nil draw didn't seem to reflect the performance that created so many chances and it would not have been an unfair result if the Bees had won handsomely - shooting practice on Wednesday 😊

Player of the Match was Emma, as chosen by captain Raphi.