

28 September 2019 – U12 Bees v Sandbach

The Bees continued their unbeaten run by deservedly edging a very good game against Sandbach.

Waverton started where they left off last week with captain Raphi and Millie pulling the strings in the centre of the pitch, and Georgia a constant threat up front. Eventually Sandbach's excellent goalkeeper was beaten, and as the ball came back off the post, Millie squared the ball to give Georgia a tap-in. Smelling blood (or honey?), the Bees ramped up the pressure, with wide players Elsa and Sophia instrumental in penning Sandbach in around their area. Further great chances fell to several of Waverton's front five, but it just wouldn't go in: Georgia hit the post and Daisy had a great effort from 20yds that missed hitting the top corner by inches. Sandbach weathered the storm though, and became more of a threat, attacking in numbers as the half progressed. Waverton defended high and consistently won tackles on the halfway line, but when Sandbach did manage to get in behind, the recovery runs of Amelia, Daisy and Amelie unfortunately left goalkeeper Sarina with little to do. However, as quite heavy rain started to fall Sarina was called into action and did well to keep out a couple of skidding long-range efforts before she was eventually beaten to leave it finely poised at 1-1 at half-time.

Now soaked to the bone, the Bees spirits were not dampened and continued to play at a high tempo – possibly just to keep warm. Sophia and Millie were tireless and physical on the left-hand side in winning the ball back, and the energetic Ruby and striker Emma didn't give Sandbach's defenders any time on the ball. Menna's close control launched numerous attacks, Georgia and Ruby were unlucky with long-range shots, and the Sandbach goalie made countless saves. In goal, Raphi used her area well to claim two or three through balls, and the back three defended with their brains as well as their feet and bodies, showing great awareness to catch Sandbach players offside on three or four occasions, one of which crucially saw a Sandbach goal disallowed.

This set up a tense end-to-end finish. Showing great positivity and determination, Waverton never stopped pouring forward, Menna and Emma being the latest in the list to be thwarted by the Sandbach keeper. With two minutes remaining, Georgia unleashed a thunderbolt from 25yds that flashed into the net, a strike fit to win any game. With Sandbach desperate for an equaliser, the Bees' concentration was a credit to them all, with Amelie amongst a number of players making vital clearances while defending high. Not content to sit on their lead, Emma, Georgia and Menna strung together a fine passing counterattack that almost saw Menna claiming the goal her performance deserved.

The game had been hard-fought and played in a great spirit by all the players of both teams – a credit to themselves and their clubs – but the final whistle confirmed an impressive 2-1 win for the Bees, commendably achieved in a different manner than the win of last week. Coaches Andy and Jim were especially pleased: one because he hadn't realised Sandbach's goal had been disallowed for offside, the other because he'd got his substitutes mixed up and the team had played for 5 minutes with two right wingers and no left back. The girls had baled them both out, and they celebrated with the debut performance of the girls' victory celebration: the Bee Banana!

Menna was Player of the Match, as selected by Georgia for her constant attacking and getting into goalscoring positions.