

## 26 October 2019 – U12 Bees v Cheshire Blades

Another week, another high-scoring game for the Bees.

After heavy rain during the journey to Winsford, it was a relief when the heavens closed shortly before the Bees' game with Cheshire Blades. At kick-off though, Waverton were the keener to get moving and get warm, with striker Georgia and holding midfielder Elsa snapping at the Blades' heels and forcing their defenders and goalkeeper into early rear-guard action, and another scramble in the Blades' box saw the ball pop up for Millie to tap-in her third goal of the season for a deserved Waverton lead.

Cheshire Blades though, warmed up a bit by now, began using their superior height and strength to force their way back into the game. However, there was no way through for their industrious striker as right back Sophia defended shrewdly, showing her opponent the outside more than once before getting a vital foot in to halt the attack. On the left, Ella, in her first game back from injury, looked like she'd never been away, her trademark touch and composure allowing her to get the better of her much more physical marker. More fine Waverton interplay saw Georgia add a second for Waverton. It wasn't all plain sailing though, and two soft goals allowed the Blades to finish the half level.

In the second half, some positional changes for Cheshire Blades saw them become the stronger side, and captain Daisy had to use her pace and strength to foil Blades' new striker after she had run 30 yards and was just to about to shoot from around the penalty spot. Shortly afterwards, however, some indecision and lack of concentration saw the Blades take the lead following a swift counterattack from a Waverton corner.

Goalkeeper Sarina was mopping up through-balls and demonstrated her more composed approach to goal-kicks by launching one to the halfway line; with the bounce getting the better of a defender, Georgia was away and equalised with aplomb. Despite now being on the end of a fairly physical buffeting, the Bees continued to try to play. Elsa was unlucky not to pick out a wonderful through ball that would have allowed Georgia to beat the offside trap, and Ella and Millie completed any number of one-twos, two of which sent Georgia clear again, only to see Cheshire Blades' keeper make two outstanding saves. Shots from Menna were also foiled three times, the last of which, destined for the bottom right-hand corner, being seized by an increasingly busy diving goalie. Menna's contribution didn't end there though, and throughout the game she got the better of the opposing left back to fire a succession of dangerous crosses across the six-yard box. Sophia stepped in with some more crucial interceptions, as did left back Amelie, and Daisy's long goal-kicks and clearances put the ball in the opponents' half, but the Blades' physical strength eventually got them a fourth goal with the clock counting down.

Sarina, playing outfield for the last few minutes, used her freshness and box-awareness to help clear a couple of Blades' corners as they looked to press home their superiority, and her replacement in goal, Amelie, appeared pretty nerveless to get her hands on the ball and avert late danger also. As the game entered the final minute, Georgia found some space and finally managed to put the ball where the keeper couldn't reach it to bag her third hat-trick of the season and a point for her determined team-mates.

Still work to be done on concentration and attacking the ball, but the girls demonstrated again that heart and determination certainly aren't lacking.

Player of the match was Ella, selected by Sarina for playing so well with confidence and calmness upon her return from a nasty injury.

Finally, a very big thank you to all the parents who drove all the way to Winsford anticipating standing in torrential rain for an hour: none of this could happen without this level of commitment, and it was great that such an important part of the Bees' team were rewarded with the deluge being switched off.