

2 November 2019 – U12 Bees v Frodsham

The Bees rounded off their games in the Croco League by extending their unbeaten run to three games – courtesy of their third draw in a row, this week with Frodsham.

With captain Raphi keen to do well against a much-improved Frodsham team consisting of all her Helsby High schoolmates, Waverton began as strongly as ever. Playing centre-forward, Raphi did well to peel off her marker and lay balls off first time to Georgia on the left wing and was unlucky to slightly mis-time her runs for the return passes, being flagged for offside twice in promising positions. Out wide, Menna was as big a threat on the right as Georgia on the left, with quick feet and a burst of pace getting her beyond her marker throughout both halves of the game to fire dangerous crosses along Frodsham's six-yard box. Behind the front three, Ruby and Emma were as industrious as ever, the former breaking up Frodsham attacks and launching Waverton's (sometimes with her left foot), and the latter unlucky with her final pass more than once as she looked to put a team-mate through on goal.

A very even game saw the Bees' defenders with their work cut out also against some strong Frodsham attackers. Centre-half Amelia did excellently to turn and clear while having dispossessed an attacker, and co-defender Daisy did equally well to cut out a dangerous cross while running back towards her own goal. Both girls also took up the challenge of attacking the ball, beating their opponents to it on the halfway line, as did right-back Amelie who made a couple of vital clearances there and generally held her position well this week.

Goalkeeper Sarina, challenged with using her hands more, did just that, making one important save to her left and generally picking up everything else that came into the box. Having also taken responsibility for goal-kicks, it was one of these that defensive midfielder Ruby latched onto before playing a great pass for the onrushing Raphi to run onto, taking it past Frodsham's last defender before finishing well in the bottom left corner to give the Bees the lead. Georgia was unlucky not to add a second with a well-hit first time effort from the left edge of the box, but the Bees led 1-0 at half-time.

The second half continued where the first left off, with the Bees creating chances while also fending off Frodsham's. New centre forward Ella dropped deep to give left back Elsa options from throw-ins and Emma's strong running helped Waverton transition defence into attack several times. Georgia continued to get beyond her marker and Frodsham's centre half did very well to cut out a dangerous ball that Menna on the opposite wing was eyeing up for a well-hit shot. At the other end, Amelia did even better to make a vital tackle in the middle of her own area to leave Frodsham's striker in a heap a split second after she'd been about to give her own team the lead. Right back Evie's attitude to defending was similarly 'never-say-die', attacking the ball with gusto and relishing the physical side of tackling: she put her foot in repeatedly, blocked shots bound for the net and made a vital volleyed clearance from a dangerous Frodsham corner – this last inspiring a celebratory 20yd backwards run. However, with Waverton having to think on their feet at goal-kicks, a period of prolonged Frodsham pressure yielded a deserved equaliser, their striker lashing past goalkeeper Amelie from close range.

Unperturbed, Amelie marshalled her goal well, getting her hands on the ball a couple of times and carefully watching Frodsham shots fly just past either post. Ruby helped her out by dealing with successive corners at the near post and Elsa also did her bit in a busy back three, showing good concentration to not let Frodsham's right winger have it all her own way, and good composure to get her foot on the ball and find a team-mate while under pressure.

The Bees weathered the storm though and the game finished 1-1 to complete the games of the Croco League with just two losses in eight games – one of which being a reverse to unbeaten champions Northwich Victoria by a single goal. A respectable return of 10 points, and plenty of reasons to look forward to seeing the Bees strutting their stuff in the next League.

Player of the match was Evie, selected by Daisy for such committed defending.