

5th September 2020: AFC Waverton U13 Bees vs Frodsham

The Bees girls finally got back on the pitch for their first game in almost 6 months with a friendly against Frodsham.

From the whistle, the team showed their desire and enthusiasm to be back playing and swarmed up the pitch keen to take out some lockdown frustration on poor Frodsham. Georgia hit the crossbar direct from the game's first corner and it wasn't long after that Daisy pounced on a loose ball 25-yards out, hammered a looping shot towards the Frodsham goal, and the spin and bounce deceived the goalkeeper to leave the ball in the back of the net and Daisy running off to celebrate her first goal in three years.

From then on it was all Waverton. Ruby showed off her improved dribbling skills to make a series of surging runs through the middle and down the left wing, and from one of the latter she fired in an excellent left-footed cross that Georgia met equally-left-footedly eight yards out. Unfortunately, it was straight at the goalkeeper, but before long a second goal came from the opposite flank. Evie, dominant on the right-hand side of defence won the ball back and got her head up to pick out Georgia who raced all the way to the byline and squared for Raphi who, arriving quickly at the near post, got enough of a touch to divert the ball onto the adjacent defender and beyond the stranded goalkeeper.

Waverton kept the pressure on, Amelie advancing confidently off her line to mop up through balls, Amelia and Evie outmuscling Frodsham's attackers, Sophia and Daisy advancing the team up the pitch with good throw-ins on both sides, and Ruby and Millie using the ball intelligently to feed Raphi, Georgia and Menna to rampage forwards. The latter three kept Frodsham penned in at a series of goal-kicks, and from one of these Ruby, finding herself under no pressure 20 yards out, lined up a shot that sailed just over the bar. She got her reward shortly afterwards, this time after Sophia had won possession on the right and fed Georgia. Good play between her and Menna saw the ball pulled back to edge of the box and Ruby made no mistake, firing high into the net for Waverton's third.

Frodsham rallied slightly towards the end of the half, and Waverton's attacking intent got the better of them: despite Amelie making a couple of good saves, Amelia and Evie got dragged wide, and no-one was tracking back to leave a Frodsham player unmarked in the middle to reduce the arrears.

The second half began with a much-changed Waverton side, taking advantage of the friendly to try players in new positions and combinations. Frodsham had also rotated their 18-strong match-day squad and were a different proposition as the second half kicked off. They forced a series of corners that the Bees just could not clear, balls bouncing dangerously around the box, and Frodsham soon found themselves level.

The Bees rallied, maybe piqued at having been undeservedly pegged back. With Amelia back on to shore up the defence, normal service was resumed. Evie reasserted her dominance on her side of the pitch, and Elsa got the better of her opposite number on the left side of the pitch as well. From one of her excellent interceptions, she fed Menna on the left wing – Menna promptly turned and played a lovely ball through the middle for Georgia to gallop onto: Georgia did the pass justice, taking one touch before dispatching a fine early shot beyond the unprepared goalkeeper from the edge of the box.

One way traffic towards the Frodsham goal resumed, with Sarina making a couple of good long-range clearances and Daisy striding forward into the wide open spaces of Frodsham's left side, occupying defenders and freeing Georgia in the middle; it was after more good work by Georgia that Millie made sure of the win, deservedly tapping in Waverton's fifth after a cross from the right.

The girls did really well in their first competitive game for six months, and it was great to see them cutting loose, playing good football and scoring goals. Can't wait to see how they get on in the coming season.

Player of the Match was Millie, as selected by Menna.