

Match Report - Sunday 20th September

Girls Under 16 Home Counties League

Wimbledon 3 Woking 4

Woking's U16 girls got their league season off to a winning start in a 7 goal thriller against a competent Wimbledon side. Woking dominated the early play with Sophie Totman winning the ball in midfield to set up Georgina Bernard for two early chances that both went narrowly wide. Woking's possession soon forced a short corner however and although Georgia Lord's crisp shot was blocked, Pheobe Bryant pounced to turn in the rebound.

Woking threatened to extend their lead with Kirsty Lazer going close with several short corners and Maddie Fletcher having a well hit shot on the run saved but Wimbledon's quick counter attacking style was to prove effective. Katie Colwil made an excellent save from a breakaway chance but she could do nothing to stop the rebound being turned in for the equaliser.

The goal changed the balance of the game and Wimbledon looked like making Woking pay for their early profligacy in front of goal, scoring a neatly taken short corner to take the lead and then being denied a third only by some great defending by Stephanie Hosman.

Wimbledon took the early initiative in the second half with Colwil called upon to make another good save before the industrious Lord began to take control of the midfield again, finding Fletcher with a telling pass that enabled her to set up Bernard for the equaliser.

With Lucy Collier and Clare Aldrich providing some strong running in the midfield area Woking re-established their dominance and a well worked short corner routine saw Lazer set up Lord to smash Woking's third, quickly followed by another crashing Lord shot from yet another short corner being turned in by Bryant to extend the lead.

Colwil twice found herself 1 on1 with a Wimbledon forward as they pushed forward to try to get back into the game, pulling off two excellent saves. Then, in the move of the match, Rachel Cullum's deft touch from defence found Fletcher who ran down the wing, combining with Lord before delivering a long pass to the unmarked Bernard in an advanced position. The forward went for the spectacular, smashing the ball first time past the advancing keeper before the umpires unfortunately judged that the shot had come from just outside the D.

Seconds later Fletcher and Lord again combined well in another excellent move to set up a far easier chance for Bernard but this time she failed to tuck the ball away. Emma Sharp had kept the Wimbledon forwards relatively quiet throughout the second period with some tight defending but as Woking continued to push forward she found herself outnumbered in a Wimbledon counter attack and the home sides forwards reduced the deficit to set up a nail biting final few minutes before Woking eventually emerged victorious.

Cathy Wood, coaching the side for the first time, was impressed by her charges first outing of the season saying "There is plenty to work on but the girls remained well disciplined throughout. They stayed level headed under pressure and ensured they came out on top".