

Ladies earn Abingdon revenge

Chairgirls collect 2-1 Berks & Bucks Cup quarter-final victory.



Chante Inniss

For the second time in two weeks, the Chairgirls were in cup action away to Abingdon United - this time in the Berks and Bucks senior women's cup quarter final, earning a 2-1 victory.

The last game between the two sides was in the SRWFL League Cup and ended in an agonising loss for the Chairgirls on penalties after what had been a very closely contested and exciting game.

As with the previous game, it was the Chairgirls who started the faster of the two teams and Chante Inniss capitalised on a chance from a flick on by Sarah Harrison. Her pace took her past her defender and she finished in style with a powerful low shot across the keeper for 1-0.

Abingdon upped their tempo and moved the ball well causing some problems for the Wycombe defence which was again superbly marshalled by the experienced Natalie Barette and Katie Hudson, ably supported by Emma Dean and Emma Newberry in fullback areas. As a consequence, Amy Batkin in the Wycombe goal was not put under any serious pressure.

The pace of the game was excellent with both teams working hard in the midfield area to establish dominance. In terms of possession, Abingdon were neater but could not find the final pass often enough whereas Wycombe were very combative and demonstrated a range of effective passes creating good chances for all three strikers which were not taken.

The second half delivered more of the same with some very good football on show from both teams. If anything, the tempo increased and the tackles flew in more frequently as both sides tried to assert themselves. Arguably, Wycombe came out of the blocks faster than Abingdon and on 53 minutes an excellent ball from skipper Charlotte Bagshaw picked out Sam Jackson whose first touch was excellent with her second being even better as her venomous strike sailed past the despairing dive of the Abingdon keeper.

Abingdon increased the pressure with their passing improving and starting to create some opportunities for their strikers. In their efforts to protect their lead, Wycombe conceded several free kicks that thankfully did not disturb Batkin too much. However, Abingdon's perseverance was rewarded when on 80 minutes a poorly defended cross was headed in for 2-1.

This resulted in a nervy last 10 minutes or so for the Chairgirls especially when Tara Woodward found her way through on goal 1v1 with the keeper but failed to capitalise and put the victory beyond doubt. To Wycombe's credit, they played the ball into good areas to keep Abingdon on the backfoot to ensure the win.

This was another fantastic advert for the standards being set by clubs in the SRWFL this season with both teams deserving credit for their performances. We await the semi-final draw with anticipation as Wycombe will play one of three National League opponents which will be another very real test for the team. Next week sees Wycombe play host to Tilehurst Panthers from Division 1 in the SRWFL in another cup game this time competing the Chairman's Cup competition, kick off at 14:00. Please come along and support your Chairgirls.