

Firsts put up fight against high-flyers Abingdon United

A mix of youth and experience make things hard for Abingdon.



The Chairgirls welcomed promotion hopefuls Abingdon United to the Bucks College campus on Sunday and were looking to salvage some pride following an 8-1 defeat in their League Cup encounter earlier in the season.

The game opened with Abingdon having much of the possession and were patient in their build up to probe for openings. Some early shots on goal either missed the target or were gathered safely by the Blues' keeper, Amy Whale. Wycombe found their rhythm and were making life difficult for their visitors as they continued to press effectively and denied space. The lively trio of Paish, Tilley and Inniss caused some nervous moments for the experienced back line of Abingdon only to find Abingdon keeper, Molly Ripley standing in their way.

Amy Whale saved well from close range with a firm hand pushing the ball away from danger as Abingdon sought to apply more pressure. Wycombe continued to work hard collectively to deny their visitors any clear goal-scoring opportunities and the frustration in the Abingdon camp was starting to show as passes went sideways and backwards and was often lost to the hardworking home side. In their eagerness to win possession, inevitably Wycombe conceded some free kicks and on 38 minutes, former Chairgirl Steph Mobbs stepped up to strike an unstoppable free kick into the top corner to give Abingdon the breakthrough they needed.

Wycombe heads did not drop as they resumed their high intensity to frustrate their opponents and look to hit them on the break.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0-1 Abingdon United

The opening 20 minutes of the second half saw more of the same with Wycombe absorbing pressure and looking to counterattack through the impressive youngster Naomi Tilley. The midfield trio of Jackson, Harrison and Nazif worked tirelessly to win possession and help their strike colleagues mount several good attacks of their own. However, another former Chairgirl, Lindsay Pinker, in a rare lapse of concentration from Wycombe, was afforded too much time and space which she took advantage of as she struck from 25 yards into the net.

Wycombe picked themselves up again and looked to take the game to their visitors with Katie Hudson setting the tone through her leadership, encouraging her team mates to continue to contest every ball. On 75 minutes another rare lapse in concentration allowed Abingdon to make the game safe with a third goal.

All credit to Wycombe who did not stop competing with a very good team whilst creating some good opportunities of their own. This young side, with no fewer than six players aged 18 and under, are showing signs of promise supported by their more experienced teammates.

Full-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0-3 Abingdon United

Next week sees the Chairgirls make the journey south to face second placed and unbeaten Moneyfields in the league at Moneyfields FC, Moneyfields Avenue, Copnor, Portsmouth PO3 6LA.