

The Buckingham School Girls U16 Win County Championship – March 2018

On Thursday 15th March at Arbour Park Stadium, Slough, The Buckingham School were confirmed as the winners of the 2018 Under 16 Bucks Schools FA Cup for Girls. Beating Shenley Brook End 4-2 in an enthralling match on the 4G pitch. Previous encounters of the two teams had always ended in Shenley's favour, however, as it was the final, it was Buckingham's determination that ended with them coming out on top.

An early free kick was awarded to Shenley Brook End, as a result of a foul by one of the Buckingham defenders, this ended in a fantastic goal from Shenley's Captain which put them out in front. As they continued to apply the pressure the Buckingham defence (Scarlett Steer, Freya White, Hannah Weatherly, Hannah Walker) were forced to battle hard to keep them out of the box. Some great saves from the Buckingham keeper, Katie Thrift, kept them in the game, however Shenley continued to pass the ball well around the players which resulted in another goal towards the end of the first half. Buckingham went in at half time 2 Goals behind.

An inspirational half time team talk from Mr Minns, boosted The Buckingham girls' confidence to come back out fighting and battle for the win. No substitutions were made at half time, keeping the same starting eleven on the field.

As Buckingham kicked off the second half they looked almost certain to score, with many through balls and clearances coming from the defensive line, this helped the two Buckingham strikers (Molly Aldersley and Katie Robinson) to out-pace the Shenley defence and be one-on-one with the keeper. However, the Shenley goalie proved herself a very worthy opponent and quickly closed down any options that Buckingham strikers had. Finally, a counter attack came from the midfield, and a sprint down the right wing saw Mille Holme cut in and score to bring Buckingham back in with a chance.

After the first goal, there was a sign of a Buckingham comeback as they seemed to lift in confidence, with Rhianne Rush holding up the ball in midfield. The early stages of the second-half were dominated by Rhianne, as she found herself on the end of every goal kick from the Shenley keeper, with good control she managed to get the ball down at her feet and drive forwards to put the keeper under pressure with her powerful shot.

A great through ball from Rhianne saw Captain Molly Aldersley in a one-on-one situation with the last defender, which she easily converted into the equalising goal.

Now, with the game level the tide was beginning to turn in Buckingham's favour. Millie Holme's second goal of the game gave Buckingham the lead of 3-2. Buckingham substitutions, provided fresh legs in defence.

Soon after the third goal from the Buckingham team, Katie Robinson followed up with a sprint into the box. After out running her defender, she found it easy to put the ball around the keeper and in the back of the net, securing the fourth and final goal of the game.

Minutes later the final whistle sounded, the Buckingham girls were elated having finally defeated the strong Shenley side. Each of the Buckingham players were awarded with a winning medal and then all gathered to lift the shield.

The Bucks FA awarded Man of the match to the stand out player on the pitch, which was Buckingham school's central midfielder Rhianne Rush.

Squad:

Molly Aldersley (Cpt)

Katie Robinson

Rhianne Rush

Millie Holme

Freya White

Maisie Jones

Scarlett Steer

Hannah Weatherly

Hannah Walker

Katie Thrift (GK)

Sophie Cassidy

Katie Lee

Izzy Hardy

Match Report by Molly Aldersely