

Bootroom Bulletin

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The fairy-tale continues for footballing heroes

Every great sports story has some epic moments along the way (just ask the Y4 cup winners!), and if Shadwell Boys' Football team are to do the unthinkable, they will surely look back on Thursday's quarter final as one such moment.

Hosting Shakespeare Primary, this match turned out to be the ultimate playscript which no one would believe possible. In a game of little chances in way of shots on goal it would be the opposition who broke the deadlock partway through the first half, their striker firing past a lunging Jackson on the line.

Despite the setback, Shadwell were well in this game; the ball was largely in the Shakespeare half but the lads struggled to find a passing way through a physically strong opposition. Birthday boy Archie (no doubt powered by a substantial amount of cake) was burning off every calorie, putting in a sugar-fuelled player of the

game performance from centre-mid. His running mate Max matching him in the ever important 'blade-of-grass-covered' stat!

Half time rejuvenated the team and they picked up where they left off, placing large amounts of pressure on the Shakespeare goal; their keeper made a brilliant save from Max's free kick in particular.

Two minutes to go and the score was still 1-0; the emotion of such an occasion got too much for one fan in particular. As the ball was in the opposition's box Ethan's 3-year-old nephew ran onto the pitch to wish Ethan good luck for the final stages of the game; much to Ethan's delight... a drop ball ensued and led to more Shadwell pressure who now had defender Jackson and goalkeeper Dexter up for support!

Seeing how much it meant to the fans clearly spurred the team on and a series of corners towards the end of the game proved too much for the Shakespeare defence. With one last ditch corner it really was "To be or not to be" for the lads. As the game was nearing shoelace-tying time up stepped George who played a quite frankly a sublime out-swinging ball and in charged captain Max who threw himself at the ball with such commitment, powering a header into the roof of the net! Cue uproar from the Shadwell faithful as the team really had left it late (30 seconds left to play at the time of the goal!).

The full-time whistle blew soon afterwards but this game needed a winner and the decision prior to the game was to go straight to penalties. Despite losing on pens in the cup earlier in the season the boys showed no signs of nerves with an array of coolly placed spot-kicks. Keeper Dexter said no to two Shakespeare players, both times stretching to tip the ball wide! Up stepped Ed, knowing he had the chance to win it, etching his name in Shadwell folklore as a complete legend, finding the bottom corner!

The lads certainly knew they'd been in a battle, but what a brilliant example of not giving up on a game; emotions had been running high for the duration, and once we'd taken the heart-rate monitors off some of the more experienced fans (and some staff!) attention turned to the semi-final. Date to be confirmed but it'll be away against either Rawdon Littlemoor or St Anthony's (the school who beat us on pens in the cup). Whatever the outcome of the rest of the season these players have shown they're capable of mixing it with the best, and coming out on top!

Shadwell Girls Finish 3rd in Leeds!

Not only did we have one of the biggest sports tournaments kicking off last week, we also had the conclusion of a season of hard work for the girls' football team. Having qualified for the city finals Shadwell were one of eight teams looking to try and become the best in Leeds. Having made it through to the semi finals the girls were guaranteed 4th place at worst but in with a real shout to win it all; this is a great team of course, not only do they have the technical ability and drive to win, but the resilience to match when times get challenging.

One such occasion happened in the semi-final. Despite large amounts of possession and pressure against Horsforth Newlaithes the team couldn't find a way through. The opposition had some excellent players themselves and Chloe did a fantastic job at keeping their best player quiet with some great tackles and lots of energy. If on the rare occasion they were able to break past Chloe, Kitty and Olivia were also there to provide an unbreakable wall!

In attack Ava had a powerful run and shot held by their keeper and Kaya's usual darting drives were creating space for Ivy and Hollie to have chances of their own, but to no avail. The score remained 0-0 at full time which meant a best of three penalty shoot out.

Shadwell were unfortunate to be denied by their spot kicks and despite some fantastic reflexes by Sharn in net Horsforth snuck through to the final.

Although obviously disappointed, like it said earlier this is a resilient bunch! Anyone can enjoy sport when they're winning but it takes real character to manage tough defeats. Not only did the girls have to deal with the loss, but they also had to pick themselves up again as 3rd place was on the line!

As the match kicked off the team's determination to get something from the trophy table was obvious! Within minutes they were 1-0 up; some great footwork from Hollie and a typical run from Kaya, which she'd been doing all day saw a crashing drive hammer passed the keeper!

It was clear we had some of the best players on show and one such footballer was our Ava, who capitalised on slow defensive reaction to twice grab herself goals in the box! Not only content with that her powerful corner found its way straight into the net for a well-deserved hattrick!

Finishing third in the whole of Leeds is a fantastic achievement for the team. Penalties can go either way and not only are we very proud of the girls that but themselves forward to take a spot kick in the semi, but the team as a whole for the way they bounced back immediately from disappointment; that resilience and character is what really counts and this team couldn't have shown anymore!

Well done girls!

World Series comes back with a bang!

Monday 6th June; a date in everyone's dairies that's for sure! As the half term got underway so did the 2nd annual World Series! What better way to start it off with Y3 vs Y4 who, whilst may be lacking in the experience department more than make up for it with heart and energy!

The first game got off to a brilliant start for Y3 who shocked the Y4s to take a 2-0 lead with tries from both Oliver and Jude! Not to be deterred Y4 fought back as they grew into the game managing to get over the line with tries from both Rory and Ruben!

The game was being played at a frantic pace and both sides needed to be switched on just to keep up! Y3 took the lead once again when a fantastic mazy run from Oliver meant they broke ahead!

Rory wasn't having any of it though and soon struck back levelling the game. With the final play of the first match Y3 were determined to take their chance to claim what could be a priceless first victory and they looked to be through as well till Ben pulled out a fantastic diving tag to save his team!

As is the format for this tournament each class will play their opposition twice in the same day; not only does this ease with squad rotation but also potentially creates more drama, and so it proved in this second game; both teams had a try ruled out for diving/sliding over the line (Rule 4 in Issue 6 clearly states that doing so will result in a turnover ball, so stay on your feet everyone!)

It was Y3 who took the lead again in this game, Oliver once again finding his way over the try line to take the lead! Y4 had to fight back once again and did so with a miraculous play!

When Leo received the ball in the opposition half of the pitch he had a few options; take it himself and try and score; find an open team mate or panic! Lucky for Y4 Leo saw what no one else could, Noah open on the wing. With an incredible no-look, over the head pass behind him Leo fooled the Y3 defence completely with a pinpoint pass to Noah who had the simple job of getting the ball over the line! A definite early contender for 'World Series Moment of the Week!' As he made his way back to his half Leo exclaimed 'I can't believe that worked!' Though the whole of Y4 are glad it did!

You could really see the progression in both teams as the matches wore on, with some excellent runs from each side; Ismaeel from Y4 made a particularly looping run around the whole of the Y3 team, it was so good he decided to do it all again in the same play! Fantastic effort!

Unfortunately for the Y4s efforts such as this didn't quite finish with a try. In fact, it was Y3 who were pushing for the winner towards the end and it took some real last ditch tagging from Ajeet in particular kept them in it. Y4 clung on for the second game and grabbed another draw meaning both teams begin their World Series adventure undefeated!

Y3 Girls shock the sporting world!

A day after witnessing the rest of their classes get World Series underway it was the turn of Shadwell's Y3 & 4 girls to enter the sporting arena. Y3, making their World Series debut got off to an absolute flyer pushing into a 2-0 lead with tries from Olivia and Penny W. Like a boxer picking themselves up from a brutal knock-down Y4 pulled themselves together and not only stemmed the tide of Y3 tries but also managed some of their own; a neat score in the left corner from Milly made way for a barnstorming run from Ruby who seemed to take on the entire Y3 team not once, but twice before breaking through for the equaliser!

This Y3 team are clearly made of strong stuff however, and it proved when Olivia burst the Y4 defensive line to claim her second try and the all-important winner of the first game to cause the first upset of World Series this year!

You could tell during the break that Y4 were 'well up' for the second game and got off to an extremely quick start when Beatrice was able to find space down the right to get the ball down just in time!

Despite equalising through a score from Penny M Y3 ultimately came unstuck against a different Y4 approach in this game.

Beatrice, not content with just the one try, took matters into her own hands to score again with additional scores from team mates Milly, Emily and Ruby gave Y4 a commanding lead!

Despite staring defeat in the face Y3 showed such excellent character and didn't go down without a fight, reducing the deficit through a great try from Khadijah and a last-minute run from Penny M for her second try to pull back the score.

It finished with each team winning a game meaning everyone's a winner in this matchup! Spectators commented that especially for a first proper game the energy and standard of tagging was excellent, and this reporter has to agree!

Two more draws on Wednesday!

The first games from Upper KS2 commenced on Wednesday as Bramham Y6 girls made the journey across North Leeds to Shadwell to take on their Y5. Only having 9 girls in the whole class and just 7 available (just enough for a team!) meant they were surely in for a tough ride against a Shadwell side who could boast five substitutes!

Nevertheless, a thoroughly entertaining couple of games ensued with a very open first encounter with Shadwell managing to take the lead on multiple occasions but each time Bramham were able to find a way to equalise; some brilliant individual tries were

recorded. Emelia was able to get the scoring underway for Shadwell with some brilliant high energy bursts! Soon after Bramham got a couple of tries themselves through Edie and Carrie. The lead exchanged hands more time than a pass-the-parcel game between 20 people! Both Kitty and Ivy (who managed 3 tries!) got in on the act before Edie doubled her return and India came from nowhere to break the Shadwell defensive line not once but twice! With time winding down Shadwell had an incredible 6-5 lead, until Freya darted to the right corner with the last play of the first game!

For a match to evenly split 12 tries is really rare to say the least but it really wasn't a game either team deserved to lose!

If the first game was open the second game was the complete opposite as both teams tightened up their defensive play and their tagging intensity. Shadwell's Hollie provided a brilliant front-line wall and with tries from Isla and Ella, with Ivy continuing her try-scoring from the first game meant Shadwell were able to take leads once again.

Bramham were matching the brilliant tagging on their side with a very well-rounded defensive display and in attacker Carrie they clearly had a potent threat; Carrie managed to get all three Bramham tries in this one, including a late Bramham equaliser once again to make the final score 3-3! Despite some final Shadwell attacks the Bramham players kept their energy right to end and got two well-earned draws!

World Series Moment of the Week!

In the first 'Moment of the Week' we see top spot claimed by Shadwell's Leo with his no-look, over the head pass which lead to Y4's only try against Y3 to claim a priceless draw!

Latest League Tables!

So here's the part you're all really interested in! As per previous World Series point systems every time a team plays a game they get a point just for playing because, why not! Each win is worth 3 points and a draw is worth 1.

After week 1 some tables in particular look especially close!

Upper KS2 Boys':

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	F:A	Points
Y5 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0
Y6 Shadwell	0	0	0	0	0:0	0
Y5 Shadwell	0	0	0	0	0:0	0
Y6 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0

Upper KS2 Girls':

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	F:A	Points
Y5 Shadwell	2	0	2	0	9:9	4
Y5 Bramham	2	0	2	0	9:9	4
Y6 Shadwell	0	0	0	0	0:0	0
Y6 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0

Lower KS2 Boys':

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	F:A	Points
Y4 Shadwell	2	0	2	0	4:4	4
Y3 Shadwell	2	0	2	0	4:4	4
Y4 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0
Y3 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0

Lower KS2 Girls':

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	F:A	Points
Y4 Shadwell	2	1	0	1	7:6	5
Y3 Shadwell	2	1	0	1	6:7	5
Y4 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0
Y3 Bramham	0	0	0	0	0:0	0