

## **WASPS LEAVE IT LATE AGAINST LICHFIELD**



**Despite being under pressure for large parts of the game, Wasps Ladies scored two tries in the last 10 minutes to snatch victory against a tough Lichfield team.**

It was perfect rugby weather at Wasps Twyford Avenue pitch; summer seemed to have decided October was the ideal month for it to arrive and the two teams looked keen to play running rugby with both sets of backs involved early on. However, Lichfield looked the more promising team at the outset. Their outside centre, Vicki Jackson, broke the Wasps defensive line early in the match, but a superb last ditch tackle prevented the opening try. A break from the fly half again open up the defence, but the rushing Lichfield attack was stopped just before the line and a penalty for holding on let Wasps off the hook.

Against the run of play, it was the home side that secured the first try of the game. Heather Fisher, intelligently reading the play, intercepted a pass bound for the Lichfield 12 and sprinted the length of the field to score. The try did nothing to dampen the visitors' spirit as they were back in attack straight after the restart. Lichfield had a number of opportunities to score, being held up on the line and

missing a kickable penalty. It was only a matter of time before their sustained pressure led to a try, Jackson again breaking the line to score beneath the posts.

With the game tied at 7-7 for most of the second half, the London side finally seemed to be getting into the game, showing more aggression in defence and invention in attack. Despite this, it just wouldn't come together for them, and a number of penalties hampered their progress. For 20 minutes the better chances fell to Lichfield. Wasps defended stoically as Lichfield fought to break the deadlock using both their strength up front and pace in the backs. Wasps hard work paid off as, with a quarter to go, the match turned in their favour when they successfully defended a Lichfield attack on their own 5 yard line. They took this momentum into the opposition half employing pace on both wings to make the impact.

With 10 minutes to go, the home team finally ended the stalemate, getting it right in both the forwards and the backs. A superb Shelley Rae kick took them into the Lichfield 22. The visitors conceded a rare penalty and from the line out Wasps set a solid drive. The backs got quick ball and moved it quickly through the hands. Full back Sue Day hit the line at pace, bursting through a gap in the defence to score her second match-winning try in as many games.

Wasps wrapped it up 5 minutes from time. With Lichfield pushing hard to level the game before the final whistle, Wasps found some space. Outside centre Michaela Staniford ran a superb line, opening up the defence to put the game beyond Lichfield with a superb try.

It was a frustrating end to the game for Lichfield who dominated for large parts of the match. However, Wasps again showed the determination and attitude that makes them a hard side to beat. Hard work and commitment in the second half got them back into the game and eventually they showed a bit of quality with two well-worked tries sealing victory.

### **Match Report by Kirsten Sibbit**

[www.waspsfootballclub.co.uk/waspswomen](http://www.waspsfootballclub.co.uk/waspswomen)