

## **Norfolk & Suffolk Youth League U11 Cup Final – Emerald Park Gorleston, Sunday 29 March St. Benets Wasps 'A' 0 Waveney Youth U11A 0, Waveney win 4-3 on penalties**

Top of the table Waveney Youth U11A met second-placed St. Benets in the U11 Cup Final at Emerald Park on Sunday, and a large crowd enjoyed a close and tense encounter played in a great spirit with a penalty shoot-out eventually deciding the outcome.

Few chances were created in the first period and defences held sway as both teams worked hard to fashion an opening. The first break fell to Waveney when a slick passing move released Gallant and his first-time effort was turned around the post. St. Benets looked dangerous on the break and Bush and Sissen stood firm before Meades made a smart save at point blank range. Man of the match French then struck a left foot shot at the other end which was again saved. There was tremendous energy throughout and Phillips and Woods worked hard with Nichols and Anderson to try and prise open the Wasps defence but it remained goalless at half-time.

The second-half was more open and Meades made another excellent save to tip a shot around the post and then Mahoney's long shot was well-held at the other end. With Walpole, Butler and Evans becoming more adventurous and Welton winning possession in the centre Waveney finished the match strongly. The best chance fell to Woods when after a smart turn his shot was saved on the line.

Despite some fine football and endeavour, penalties decided the match with Phillips, Meades, and French all successful for Waveney before Meades made a fantastic stop to save the fifth Wasps' penalty, and up-stepped the unflappable top scorer Gallant to calmly slot home the winner and give Waveney the cup. This was a fine match contested by two top sides who played the game in the right manner and both sets of supporters could be rightly proud of their efforts with football itself the real winner. Waveney are grateful to their sponsors the Wherry Lines and also to the Norfolk & Suffolk Youth League and the match officials for their organisation and welcome on the day.

Accompanying picture: Waveney Youth U11A in their change strip of blue celebrate winning the U11 League Cup