

Winsford Guardian

Champions

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FORGET Juventus, Barcelona or Chelsea, the best team on the block at the moment appears to be Winsford Ladies.

The others may be in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, but none can claim to be the current league champion.

Winsford Ladies, on the other hand, can having wrapped up the Cheshire and Manchester Women's League Division Two with a 1 – 1 draw away at Manchester City Ladies on Sunday.

Winsford just needed to avoid defeat against City to be sure of the title.

But this was no mean feat as City had won every previous home game and were unbeaten going into the match.

Winsford lost just once all season, against Manchester City at Barton Stadium, but they showed real determination on Sunday to grind out the draw and clinch the league title.

Winsford started the better side and got their reward after just seven minutes.

A superb free kick from Danielle Lydiate was expertly met by Sharon Tidd, who controlled the ball on her chest before volleying into the bottom corner.

City were rattled as Winsford pressed for a second and only a combination of good luck and good goalkeeping kept the score at 0 – 1 at the break.

City started to press harder in the second half, but the Winsford defence, marshalled by the outstanding captain Emma Johnson, held firm.

On 55 minutes City were awarded a controversial penalty. Fortunately, the City striker blazed the resultant kick over the bar.

City continued to press and it took two world class saves from Winsford keeper Kayleigh Hatfield to prevent them equalising, but it was mere respite as City got the equaliser 10 minutes from time with a goal from a corner.

But Winsford held on and manager Tony Lee said: "There were 11 lions on the pitch, winning every tackle and every ball. We got the result we deserved."