

Joy for spirited Ladies

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WINSFORD Ladies were restricted to a single goal at Oldham Heyside on Sunday, but still won.

While they have taken the Cheshire and Manchester League by storm in their inaugural season, it was their battling qualities that came to the fore on a dreadful pitch.

Winsford started the brighter side and had two clear opportunities in the first five minutes but could not convert either.

What turned out to be the only goal of the game came from an unlikely source after only eight minutes.

Danielle Lydiate took an out-swinging corner from the right-hand side, which was superbly met on the volley by right-back Jen Burgess to give Winsford a deserved lead.

Heyside rarely threatened and the visitors might have been three goals ahead by half-time.

The second half was won by the pitch, which was increasingly bog-like.

"The ball had that much mud on it, and it was like kicking concrete." Said manager Tony Lee.

Winsford central defenders Emma Johnson and Leanne Tobin stoically resisted Heyside's determined efforts.

Lee added: "Leanne is only 14 and as well as playing for the Under 16's and Ladies, she is also the captain of Crewe Centre of Excellence for Girls – maybe even a future England International, who know."

Winsford again missed chances to confirm what was their ninth straight league win and remain on course for promotion.

They are at Fletcher Moss, Manchester on Sunday.