

Premier Division

Warrington gunning for a hat-trick of promotions

Conference East round-up

by Andrew Lawton

FIRST team captain Katy Warrington has seen Sevenoaks Ladies second and third teams win promotion already this season, and she is desperate for her side to follow their lead in Conference East.

A 5-0 win over Chelmsford on Saturday, including three penalty corners from Lily Elliot, certainly did no harm to their chances of hauling in league leaders Wimbledon.

But Sevenoaks are three points behind the pacesetters with three games to go so need Wimbledon to slip up if they're to steal the crown.

"Our ladies 2s and 3s have both secured promotions this week and it's great to see them enjoy that," said Warrington. "We want to replicate that but there are elements that are not in our hands.

"It's such a great vibe around the club, there's great support for all the teams. It's entertaining on the sidelines and it's nice to share those good times.

"To be able to join them would be great, it would make the end of season dinner a bit more vibrant.

"I think there's more pressure on Wimbledon, they are looking over their shoulders and we are confident with what we are doing on the training field and putting that into practice.

"There's more we are striving to improve on too, there's no resting on our laurels."

Susie Rowe opened the scoring for Sevenoaks from a penalty corner after just seven minutes at the weekend and it was the start of a pattern for the hosts.

With Elliot returning to the side having been at Cambridge University and undergone back surgery, the former England Under-18 was at her lethal best from the top of the D.

Three times she managed to find the back of the net from a short corner before Cathy Gilliat-Smith added the fifth in an impressive display.



Goal: Crista Cullen

"We did well to convert our short corners, we are confident with how they are going," added Warrington.

"When you are able to get an outcome in the D it gives you that step up. We are just looking to keep it simple, improve our goal difference and keep pressure on at the top.

"Lily came back from university and has been working her way back into the team. She's worked hard to get fit and wasn't allowed to compete in pre-season but it's great to see her back on the pitch."

Wimbledon also bounced back from their shock defeat last time out with a 3-1 win over Southgate despite Caitlin Wales giving the visitors a 16th-minute lead.

Nicola Lloyd equalised for the league leaders before Olympic gold medallist Crista Cullen put her side ahead with Harriet Naismith adding the third on the hour.

Elsewhere, Hampstead and Westminster and St Albans both ran riot with 9-0 and 8-0 wins over winless Northampton Saints and struggling West Herts respectively.

Louise Radford and Michelle Borren both scored hat-tricks for Hampstead and Westminster while Katherine Baker, Annebeth Wijtenburg and Brodie Fairchild were also on target.

At St Albans, Olympian Hannah Macleod scored a trio of goals while there were two for Kirsty Barber and Adele Sammons with Katy Hart adding the eighth.

Finally, Harlestone Magpies slipped to fourth after a 2-1 defeat to Cambridge City.

Maria Andrews had put the Magpies ahead in the second minute but Megan Beard and Holly Parsons goals gave Cambridge the victory.