



# Hitchin Hearts Belles FC 2010-2011 Under 10's Tournament Report



Date: Saturday 25th September 2010  
Kick-off: 10:30 am  
Venue: Ickleford Rec  
Competition: U10's County Cup match V St Albans (North)

After 30 years of playing and watching football and just when you think you've got it sussed, you get a big reminder in the form of a slap with a big, wet fish around the chops and you know that Jimmy Greaves was probably right when he looked at his partner, Ian St John on that dreadful 1980's football TV show and spouted those immortal words, "It's a funny old game!"

In case you think the author has lost the plot, I should explain.....

On Saturday I witnessed two very strange things. The second was at The Emirates when Arsenal, commended with the most complete passing game this side of the Camp Nou, were systematically torn apart by that other great footballing institution....West Brom.

The first strange thing happened earlier in the day when following possibly the most complete performance by the U10s Belles the previous week against Watford, our girls lost 1-6 to their County Cup opponents from the Verulumium City, or more recently known as St. Albans.

If the viewing audience will indulge me for a few seconds more, there was a third and probably even stranger sight on this day of shocks. This one came in the form of me, yes me, making tea for the St. Albans spectators, what has this world come to?! Mum's please come back from wherever you were, we need you. ☺

Anyway, back to the match report.

We actually started off very well and the shape and the passing game was good with Erin pulling the strings in central midfield. Then just before half time, from a quick throw-in, a St. Albanian fired in a powerful shot from a wide angle and way outside the box which caught us all by surprise and we went into the Half Time break 0-1 down.

Whilst we knew it would be a physical match, we thought our girls would match St. Albans in the effort stakes and they did but in doing so, they forgot the playing principles that have attracted so many compliments about our passing game. This resulted in The Belles very rarely keeping possession of the ball and as a result, our fluidity was not there.

Courtney, playing out wide was asked to do a job for the team and really did set a great example to the rest of her team mates by rolling up her sleeves and began to make things happen. (if only Mr Wenger could have picked her).

Katie, relieving Chloe of her goal-keeping duties was resolute, making save after save as the inevitable St. Albans onslaught continued, another great example of doing one for the team (move over Manuel Almunia)

We weren't outplayed; we were outfought but not outthought (just in case you thought I'd spelt it wrong first time), silly goals went in where we just weren't first to the ball in 50-50 situations.

Match Report by: Simon O'Leary



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The girls continued to put the physical effort in but our sorties on the St.Albans goal petered out, the Belles were looking tired and lacked trust in the shape that served them so well the week before.

Finally, following a quick fleet of foot by the ever-improving Zhane, Rosie was played in at an angle and finished nicely from outside the box to earn the Belles a consolation goal. Definitely one from the training ground.

Lessons learned all round today.

In summary:

- The girls love being together thus proved by the exuberant post match hide and seek game around the club house, putting into perspective a 1-6 defeat and cup exit for the pondering coaches.
- Don't let Natalie have the weekend off, I make rubbish tea!
- For Sale – Arsenal season tickets, cheap at half the price.



**Team:** Chloe K, Erin, Rosie, Katie, Courtney, Nemo, Gemma, Zhane, Tashai

**Final score:** 1 v 6

**Player of the Match:** Katie (worked hard for the team outfield and in goal)