



# Hitchin Hearts Belles FC

## 2010-2011

### Under 10's Tournament Report



Date: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Kick-off: 10:30 am  
Venue: Ickleford Rec  
Competition: League match V Garston Ladies

Today as the American's say, 'Someone's 0 had to go', for those that aren't familiar with that term – it means that both teams were unbeaten coming into this game so someone would lose their 100% record.

Garston were top of the table on goal difference and we've played Dave and Ray's team enough to know this would be one of the toughest games of the season, so the call went out to our young girls, effort, effort and more effort.

The game started and the Belles were quick out of the blocks, Tashai, back in her central midfield position, commanding things and ensuring we kept possession with a nice range of passing.

Erin and Gemma worked well as a pair at the back and Rosie and Katie enjoyed some early touches in the wide positions.

Midway through the 1<sup>st</sup> half the physical battle ensued and our girls were matching the naturally bigger and stronger purples. This was pleasing to see as we know this U10s league is about toughing it out first and then playing football...lessons have been learned.

Around the 15 minute mark, during another hotly contested midfield mêlée, Tashai threw herself in the way of a well struck Garston pass and with her head up in motion, threaded a lovely pass into the path of Katie who at full speed broke through Garston's defensive ranks. In typical tenacious Tashai style, she followed her pass into the box and when the cross came over from Katie, she was there to slot home the goal of the game.

The next 25 minutes can only be described as pretty much 'business as usual', lots of effort from both teams, the Belles trying to pass their way forward, never just hoofing the ball, keeping a track on their opponents when not in possession and everything pointed towards a famous victory and a top of the table position.

Oh how wrong we were.

Garston were awarded a corner with about 7 minutes to go and fired the ball into our box at head-height and at considerable speed. Our defenders and goal keeper froze at the impending sight of a size 4 leather ball coming straight for them and in that split second of hesitancy, the Garston striker acted on impulse and volleyed home to equalize.

Suddenly the thought of a draw against our main rivals and regular victors didn't seem too bad, but oh no, there was worse to come.....

With their tails up, Garston moved up through the gears and our shape had gone, our players looked confused and hurried and gave away possession carelessly.

Match Report by: Simon O'Leary



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The inevitable happened and Garston pierced our defence again and Chloe E had no chance when another Garston shot powered into the corner of our goal.

As Garston piled on the pressure, a looping, long range shot looked destined to finish us off but Chloe E, rose with arms extended to parry the shot and collect the ball safely. This was possibly one of the finest saves you will see this season.

Soon after, the Belles conceded a third goal from another well struck effort from just outside the box.

With seconds remaining, the Belles moved forward and had the Garston defence scrambling to clear their lines. A persistent and determined Zhane carved out one last effort only to see it hit the post and hear the final whistle.

Ray and Dave both suggested a robbery had taken place that they didn't deserve the win. I disagreed. Garston played for 50 minutes and we played for 45.

Arsenal outplayed league leaders Chelsea last weekend and lost comprehensively, so the score line suggests.

A team has a personality and a character and this team of very special girls are who they are.

This Belles team will continue to play the most attractive football in the league and they will win games and they will lose games, however, to see them all bonding and playing so well together at Katie's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party later on that afternoon, reminds you that sometimes 3 points isn't the only victory worth playing for.

The friendship and camaraderie they have formed and the energy they have for this team is what this is really all about.

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

**Final score:** 1 v 3

**Player of the Match:** Tashai (great energy, great passing, great commitment, great goal)