



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



Date: Saturday 23rd October 2010
Kick-off: 1:00 PM
Venue: Ickleford
Competition: Friendly match V Stotfold

With the U10 Belles having a free week due to a bye in the cup, a friendly match with Stotfold was arranged and kicked off in the autumn sunshine on this glorious October day.

Jessica Barber was drafted in for her first ever match following some impressive training sessions and the coaches were pleased to be easing her into match football. Erin took a break from the rigours of recent battles and went in goal as did her fellow combatant Tashai, taking over the gloves for the second half.

Our opposition were recently formed and playing in a different league to us, were an unknown quantity so the Belles had no preconceptions and needed to get to work early.

The first ten minutes were evenly contested and Belles having learned some valuable lessons against the physically tough sides of St Albans and Garston in recent weeks, looked comfortable against their considerably bigger opponents from Stotfold.

The first key moment came when Stotfold made good progress into our box and an aerial ball was handled by Chloe K, giving the stand-in ref and author no choice but to award Stotfold a penalty kick. With Erin making a debut appearance in goal, she steadied herself and guessed correctly blocking the shot with her feet and the Belles breathed a sigh of relief.

That piece of good fortune seemed to spur the Belles on and soon after, rookie Jessica latched onto a well weighted, defence-splitting pass by Rosie and with the keeper to beat, calmly slotted the ball into the corner of the net (She will remember that one for a long time).

Stotfold continued to press forward and on other days could well have been rewarded with their efforts but today they met a Gemma who was not going to be beaten. On one occasion, Gemma came out and made 3 consecutive tackles, clearing her lines and turning defence into attack to provide Jessica with another 1 on 1 opportunity that the goal keeper saved well but Courtney was there to follow up and make it 2-0.

The second half saw more Belles domination and Zhane and Katie began to cause their defence a number of problems with some strong runs into their final third. The goal of the game came when Zhane side stepped a Stotfold defender and cleverly shot across the keeper hard and low to make it 3-0.

Gemma playing out wide on the right was a sight to behold, making some powerful runs and providing a number of telling crosses for Jessica and Courtney, one of which was dispatched by the sharp-shooting Courtney.

Erin got in on the act in typical buccaneering style, bursting through midfield, unleashing a powerful shot to make it 5-0.

Match Report by: Simon O'Leary



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Sensing some gaps creeping into the Stotfold defence, Rosie skipped past a couple of players and pulled her right foot back to shoot when Zhane made an executive decision that she was better placed to take over proceedings from here and duly finished off a good move to see out the game 6-0.

A true striker doesn't care where they come from eh, Zha!?

Stotfold showed some good signs and having only played 5 games together, look like a side that can go on to bigger and better things and we look forward to playing them again.

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

Final score: 6 v 0

Player of the Match: Gemma (a fantastic defensive performance first half combined with some excellent wing play in the second)