



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



Date: Saturday 13th November 2010
Kick-off: 10:30AM
Venue: Ickleford
Competition: League match V Watford

With the author and coach missing in action this week due to a player scouting mission in Brazil (ok a golf weekend in Cambridgeshire), Greg and Terry took over the footballing and reporting reigns, so what you are about to read is down to those guys with some editing done by yours truly – thanks guys, great job!

The Belles kicked off looking to enhance their unbeaten run to 3 games, but initially made hard work of things opting for hurried, misplaced exchanges instead of their confident passing and moving game which has become the trademark of this team.

That said, the girls now have another string to their collective bows, so if muscle and determination is needed, then they can bring that to the party too. However, though the purists among us would encourage them to play the beautiful game whenever possible.

The girls have also improved their positional awareness and this was highlighted by Chloe K, playing out wide made some good attacking progress whilst sticking to her defensive duties.



In a moment that captured just how much these girls are willing to give for each other, Zhane upfront in the lone striker role, saw a long, looping ball from defence come towards her from high up in the sky and weighed up her choices.....do I head this ball and we keep possession but it hurts...or do I back off? Zhane chose the former and headed the ball – well done for giving it a go!

Whilst possession was still in the balance, Watford threatened and on one occasion broke from the halfway line but were thwarted by a brave Chloe E in goal, diving on the loose ball to keep our sheet clean.

Tashai, wearing the captain's armband today, was putting in another energetic performance, muscling her way through the midfield, breaking up any Watford attacks time and time again and in possession was calm and confident, playing little give and go's and driving forward into the Watford half, carving out shooting chances that tested their keeper.



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Around the 10 minute mark, the quick thinking Katie took a throw in to the unmarked Erin, joining the attack from deep, who controlled well and keeping her forward momentum, shot powerfully and low into the far right hand corner of the goal. 1-0 to the Belles and a big well done from the coaching team for making quick decisions in front of goal which we have been working on in training.

With the Belles now commanding the physical battle, the flood gates should have opened, however the fluid passing game still deserted them and the Belles were tentative when not in possession, allowing Watford to push forward and create a couple of half chances. Cleo, Erin and Tashai were all called into action to make last ditch tackles.

At 1-0 the game was far from safe and Watford gave their supporters something to cheer and kept Greg and Terry nervous by making some strong forward runs. Luckily, Cleo was solid in defence and defused any threat Watford made in the final third.

As the first half wore on the Belles woke up and the green lights started to show (ask your daughters for an explanation of green lights parents).

The tenacious Tashai pounced on a loose ball in midfield and found Katie out wide on the right who burst forward in typical Katie style and pulled a lovely cross back from the by line for the advancing Chloe K who came close to making it 2-0 and being rewarded for her hard work.

With the first half coming to an end, Zhane did well to get the ball down after hitting her on the back (what do we say Miss Philip....get side on...) and found herself in the clear and bearing down on goal only to be stopped in her tracks by a good piece of Watford defending and a perfectly executed tackle.

Courtney came on for Zhane and hassled and harried the Watford defence in search of scraps as true strikers do but the second goal proved elusive and the Belles went into the break with the slenderest of margins.



At half time the coaches reminded the girls that in this league 1-0 is not enough and asked the girls to up the urgency and show a little more composure on the ball. Also we needed to get into the box quicker to take advantage of the crosses that Katie and Nemo were supplying.

With the second half underway, the Belles were up and at it, pressing the ball and moving it out wide. Katie picked up possession on the half way line and skipped past 8 players (hold on Terry, I

know she is your daughter but this is only 7-a-side after all, so we'll say she skipped past 2 players. Another telling cross was sent in from Katie straight into the path of the advancing Courtney who mistimed her shot or dummied it for Nemo who made no mistake and side footed home her second of the season and the Belles second of the match. 2-0 and Greg and Terry breathed a sigh of relief.



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Chloe E was now upfront and worked hard to make sure the Watford defenders had no time on the ball. Chloe was delighted to announce that she had found a £2 coin on the pitch – the lengths that Greg and Terry will go to get the girls to listen to them. Whatever next, an iPod taped to the cross bar? More importantly, Chloe E, what happened to control, HEAD UP, decision (I guess that there are some benefits to having your head down.....? ☺)

By now the well oiled machine that is our fantastic passing game was in full effect and the goal of the game came when another pass from central midfield found the unstoppable Katie, who shrugged off the attention of the Watford defenders and rifled home a blistering shot into the far corner of the goal giving the keeper no chance whatsoever.

Any remaining Watford attack was blocked out by the virtual wall of Erin, Cleo and Tashai and if that was breached, Chloe K commanded her area with confidence and collected safely. 3-0 it remained until the final whistle and up the table we climbed. The Belles are on a roll and long may it continue.

Team: Chloe K, Erin, Cleo, Katie, Courtney, Zhane, Tashai, Nemo, Chloe E

Final score: 3 v 0

Player of the Match: Katie – consistent performer week in week out, involved in all 3 goals and bagged the last.

