



Hitchin Hearts Belles FC 2010-2011 Under 11's Match Report



Date: Saturday 13th November 2010
Kick-off: 11:45 am
Venue: Ickleford Sports & Recreation Ground
Competition: League

Hitchin Belles 4 v 1 St Albans City (North)

The Belles returned to winning ways this morning at Ickleford but only after a fighting second half performance against a gutsy, determined St Albans side. Nicole was captain today, after last weeks game saving heroics and there was a slightly smaller squad of 11 to pick from this time. St Albans have had mixed fortunes so far this season but they came in to the game today in the knowledge that they were the only team to leave with all 3 points last season and, of course, there was "that" Cup Final! St Albans kicked the game off and it soon became evident that the Belles had a tough game on their hands as St Albans began to string passes together and were quickly on the attack. The Belles seemed to be having problems clearing their lines again and it was no real surprise when St Albans took the lead on 4 minutes, after the Hitchin defence were slow to clear their box, allowing the St Albans striker in, to poke the ball past a helpless Nicole. The girls were huffing and puffing and making hard work of it and it seemed a case of déjà vu as, like last week, the girls were second to the ball and when they were in possession they couldn't find a team mates feet with the pass. However as the half began to wear on, Ursula and Megs defending and Sasa and Josephine's midfield partnership slowly gained the upper hand and, with 10 minutes of the half left, Sadie was unlucky to see her fiercely struck shot end up in the side netting. The Belles still had some defending to do though, and it was Meg and Nicole saving the day at the back with strong tackles and a good save. Tanya then came on and she also made a saving tackle before immediately going up the other end and narrowly failing to score the equaliser with a thunderous shot. Just before the half time whistle Sadie went agonisingly close again with yet another well hit shot but the result was the same as it landed in the side net.



Ciara gets stuck in



Sasa begins another Belles attack

Half time score: 0 v 1

Match Report by: Rob Kovacs



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After the half time “discussion”, the Belles came out with a sense of urgency and they went straight on the attack from the restart. It was already looking a lot better with some strong tackling and now we were seeing the accurate passing that we are so used to. The Belles were stringing passes together and using the wide areas and 6 minutes in to the half Sadie got the deserved equaliser, at last, after latching on to Sasa’s long pass from the edge of her own area, beating the St Albans defence for speed and then firing past the keeper. The Belles were slowly getting on top of their game and 5 minutes later they took a deserved lead as Sadie scored her 26th goal of the season, after deceiving the St Albans defence with a clever turn and firing home. It wasn’t all one way traffic though, and Nicole had to be at her best as the St Albans No.16, a thorn in the Belles side all day, unleashed a terrific, accurate shot from wide out by the left touchline. Nicole though remained calm and stopped the net bound ball, mid-flight. Jessica and Beth both came on as substitutes and it took Jessica only 4 minutes to score her first of the season and first for the club, to put the Belles 3-1 up, as she beat the defenders in a footrace for the ball before calmly slotting past the on coming keeper. Any lingering doubts by Hitchin were put firmly to bed, as Emily scored goal number 4, after good work from Sadie had set her free.

After another slow, shaky start, the Belles managed to get on top of the game simply by doing what they do best. Their second half performance was very much improved, not forgetting that their opponents were one of the stronger teams in the league. The girls came off the pitch knowing that they’d been in a scrap today but came off as victors because they stuck to their task and didn’t let their heads go down, listened to what they were told and acted accordingly and proved that they belong in the top half of the HGFPL.



Tanya breaks out of defence



Emily (partly hidden) hits No.4

Team: Nicole (Capt), Ursula, Meg, Tanya, Josephine, Sasa, Ciara, Emily, Sadie, Jessica, Beth

Player of the Match: Sadie. Not only scored 2 goals but worked hard all over, helping out in defence and midfield as well as keeping the opposition goalie busy.