



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



Date: Saturday 6th November 2010
Kick-off: 10:30AM
Venue: Ickleford
Competition: League match V Knebworth

The U10s Belles were back in league action today after a 2 week break and they were keen to keep the momentum earned from some excellent performances in October.

Gemma captaining the side today following her performance in the friendly against Stotfold won the toss and the Belles kicked towards the park end.

In possession the Belles looked threatening and looked to link up well but lacked urgency and reaction without the ball and as a team were very quiet which allowed Knebworth to stay in the game and force some unnecessary corners.



Tashai was the exception to the rule and busied herself, competing for every ball in the middle of the pitch and worked hard to create a foothold on the game.

Cleo supported the attack and pushed on from defence, playing some nice balls into Courtney and taking a couple of long range shots to test their keeper.

On came Katie and Erin for Rosie and Courtney and quickly injected some energy into the Belles attacks, both going on long, majestic runs but failing at the last hurdle to convert. The Knebworth keeper impressed, making some very important saves to keep them in the game.



As the half wore on, the Belles were solid in midfield and defence and created a virtual wall, winning almost every ball from Knebworth's attempts to clear their lines. Just before the break Tashai burst into the Knebworth box and showed excellent strength and composure to beat 2 defenders and calmly slot home.

At half time the coaches asked the girls to increase the urgency and press the Knebworth players quicker, instead of giving them time on the ball.

As the second half started the Belles pushed forward and looked dangerous on the attack but failed to create any telling one-on-one scoring opportunities. Knebworth dug in deep and defended very well and played some long, counter-attacking balls out of defence that tested the Belles defensively.

Match Report by: Simon O'Leary





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Rosie was solid in defence and executed some perfectly timed tackles and with Erin in support, put the Belles back on the attack with the quartet of Courtney, Katie, Nemo and Zhane all involved in pushing forward.



Cleo moved forward and again was allowed to shoot from long range, Nemo instinctively shot first time from a well worked move just inside the box only to find the post. The cushion of the all important second goal proved illusive.

At 1-0 Knebworth were still in the game and forced a series of corners that would test the Belles resolve. Cleo managed to clear 3 at the near post, although one sneaked past her and the Belles lost the resulting foot race and conceded from 2 yards out.

The game ended 1-1 and the girls could be proud of their efforts. At the beginning of the season they would have capitulated in such a physical battle but now they can match teams physically and still play the most attractive football in the division!

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

Final score: 1 v 1

Player of the Match: Tashai – great individual goal, solid physical performance and looked to pass in all directions

