



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



Date: Saturday 11th December 2010

Kick-off: 10:00AM

Venue: Knebworth

Competition: League match V Knebworth Youth

Having not played since 20th November due to the weather, the 9 Belles captained by Rosie this week, were champing at the bit to play football again. Nemo was out on a one game loan to the U9s and Gemma, nursing a sore neck came and supported from the sidelines.

The management team, sporting their new winter coats (thanks to our sponsor Grasshoppers) were also keen as mustard to find out whether the girls had remembered anything we had taught them or whether the hysteria of Christmas and school plays had banished the passing and moving drill to the far reaches of their memories.

In the first half it was clear that the girls had not lost their competitiveness or will to win but they did seem to forget that they had another 6 players on their team that if used, would make life much easier.

So with lots of huff and puff, each one of the Belles ran, tackled and competed for the ball and managed to create a few half chances with Katie pushing forward down the wing. This was not going to be enough to take away all 3 points today.

Chloe K in goal for the first half looked assured following the goalkeeping coaching we had arranged and collected the ball safely from any long range Knebworth threats to end the half 0-0.

At half time, we offered to split the pitch into 7 – 1 V 1 games with little goals so the girls could continue their individual battles...or perhaps make it into 2 V 1 or 3 V 1 or even 4 V 1 phases of play as surely this would be an advantage, the Belles pondered at this suggestion...?

With a couple more analogies about sharing the workload and bees around honey pots, the message was starting to sink in. You could see the looks on their faces....'so that's what these blokes are here forand we thought they just bought the McDonalds!'

What transpired in the second half was a pleasure to watch and coach.

Straight from a Knebworth goal kick, Courtney, taking on board some positional advice from the 'technical area', intercepted the ball and with one defender to beat, shifted the ball from right to left foot at mesmerising speed and unleashed a powerful shot past the keeper for 1-0.

What a great format....we do the ideas and you execute it! (on the basis that we can't execute anymore, without an expensive trip to Pinehill...ok maybe that's just me)

Now our Belles looked to use each other and move forward and some nice shapes and patterns were emerging down both wings. Erin and Chloe K linked well on the left hand side and forged out some nice openings for the dangerous Courtney who shot narrowly wide.

On the other wing, Rosie benefiting from some nice defensive passing from Tashai and Cleo, went on some dazzling runs, cutting inside and out and firing in shots, one of which hit the post.

Match Report by: Simon O'Leary



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It was all Belles now, and Courtney was on fire today, reacting first to any ball outside the box and shifting through the gears with that explosive footwork to fire home a left footed effort hard and low into the far corner. 2-0 to the Belles.

Defensively, the Belles organised themselves with little reminding from the sidelines and dominated possession and the physical battle. Zhane did not have a save to make. Chloe E showed some nice control and distribution which was pleasing for the coaches to see.

That said, this Knebworth team have improved, although the table might not show this. At times, they played their way out of danger from the back into the midfield with an array of one touch football that is rarely seen in this division. Keep up the good work girls!

Courtney sensing her second hat-trick of the season, worked tirelessly today (now you've set the bar young lady), her third goal was another trademark finish, latching onto a 50/50 ball with a turn and swivel, reminiscent of a certain Mr Dalglish and rounded off a great day for her.

The goal of the day was left for a quiet and unassuming young lady in her first season for the Belles. Chloe K relieved of her normal goal keeping duties in the second half, came out and played on the right wing and was enjoying getting into unfamiliar territory upfront.

Tashai played a lovely ball out to Rosie on the right wing who skipped past 3 players and looked up and sent in a lovely cross into the path of Chloe K who calmly slotted home her first goal for the Belles and will hopefully increase her confidence to produce more performances like that.

A win against top of the table Garston next week and what a way to finish off the year!

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

Final score: 4 v 0

Player of the Match: Courtney– an individual hat-trick hero.