



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



Date: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
Kick-off: 12:00pm  
Venue: St Albans  
Competition: League match V St Albans City North

The finger nails that were grasping onto an outside chance of winning the title finally broke today as the U10 Belles came away from St Albans having had the lion's share of possession, with 'nil point' and a slip back into 3<sup>rd</sup> place to show for it.

St Albans came out of the blocks like Usain Bolt and two typical 'break from the half way line' goals shocked us to the core.

Credit where credit is due, the first was a 50/50 ball in the air that their girl wanted more than ours and having won that ball with her head, duly charged past our remaining defender as if she wasn't there and with nothing in her way apart from Chloe E in goal, rifled a blistering shot into the net with Chloe wondering where her defensive colleagues were!

The second goal was carbon copy but this time their move began by intercepting one of our tentative passes into central midfield and yeah you get the rest....!

Our Belles did not give up and pushed St Albans back into the wind forcing a series of corners from both sides. Erin and Chloe K produced some wonderful crosses that evaded everyone and despairingly travelled the width of the pitch for St Albans throws.

Whenever St Albans broke through our defence, they looked like scoring and they did for a third time, slightly fortunate to slip it under the advancing Chloe but 0-3 it was all the same.

At the other end the St Albans keeper made a couple of high quality saves to keep out Erin and Tashai. Again our resulting corners were good but with no end product and the St Albans defence cleared their lines with minimal fuss or desire to play out from the back.

St Albans then had a couple of corners in the dying minutes of the first half. The first one was dealt with well and our shape was good. The second one managed to squeeze past Cleo on the near post and panic ensued and St Albans tapped home their 4<sup>th</sup>.

Moments later, the Belles were holding St Albans just outside the box and a cursory glance by the coaches saw an irritated and eager Chloe step too far from her line when the danger was being dealt with by our defensive wall on the edge of the box. The collective thought to shout to Chloe to step back on her line crossed our minds but was discounted by the unlikely chance of a lob over a crowded defence and over Chloe. This couldn't happen could it.....yeah you guessed it...! 0-5 and the half time whistle blew.

How do you pick this lot up at 0-5 down when we could have had 3 or 4 ourselves with a bit more daring?

Here's how....you remind them that collectively they are stronger than 2 very good St Albans players and that if they believe in themselves a bit more they can pull it back.



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



I swear I saw Alan Pardew hiding in the bushes at 12:25pm as we were delivering our rousing half time talk. Oh how well that served him at 3:45pm later that afternoon when 0-4 down against the Gunners!

A couple of Belles needed a bit more persuading about our 5 goal come back quest and when we were questioned "how are we going to score 5 goals in 25 minutes", Zhane our second youngest player who is still 8, calmly retorted, "well they just did!"

What a great answer and one that did our work for us.

So that's what we tried to do and with the wind behind us and memories of the last time we played St Albans here (when we camped in their goal mouth for 25 minutes), some of us actually thought we could do this.

Our first goal came when Erin sent over a corner and Tashai controlled, swivelled and fired high into the net.

Our second goal came when Katie fired in from 20 yards

Our third came when Cleo dribbled past 8 players and back heeled it in

Our fourth was a diving header by Chloe E (now on pitch)

And our equalizer came when Courtney produced a Zico-like over-head kick into the top corner.

Ok, I exaggerate....slightly....the first goal by Tashai was true but the other 4 nearly happened but they didn't and I won't even mention the blatant penalty we should have had straight after Tashai's first goal. Now I know how Lampard felt against the Germans!

Instead, our girls over excited at never having enjoyed so much possession, rushed things and played hurried passed and forgot to pass and move and use the wings.

Chloe K in our goal was called into action once and came out with confidence and composure to clear the only St Albans attack of the second half.

1-5 it ended and you have to take your hats off to St Albans, they are well organised and very effective at winning football matches.

We play them again in a couple of weeks, I'm not sure if anything will change, but our squad will have developed more skills and become better players by then through the playing and training ethic we live by.

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

**Final score:** 1 v 5

**Player of the Match:** Tashai & Erin – couldn't be split today and with Terry on a coaching course there was no 3<sup>rd</sup> person to tip the scales.

Match Report by: Simon O'Leary