



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



Date: Saturday 9th October 2010
Kick-off: 10:30 am
Venue: Ridlins Playing Fields, Stevenage
Competition: League

Bedwell Rangers 1 v 4 Hitchin Belles U11s

Spirits and hopes were high for the Belles today, after last weeks resounding 13-0 win, and they went in to this mornings game with Bedwell Rangers , confident of coming away with all the points. Jess captained the team, after her fantastic performance in that win, and she won the toss for the Belles to kick off. The pitch was badly in need of a mow, (so much so that we nearly lost one of our smaller players in the undergrowth!!), and the girls knew that they had to up their passing game, as the long grass was going to slow the ball down. The Belles were straight on the attack from the kick off , but Bedwell did well to break it up and were soon pressing deep inside Belles territory. With just over a minute of the game gone, Hitchin found themselves, unbelievably, a goal down as they watched Bedwell waltz through the defence and hit the ball high in to the top of the net to make it 1-0. Maybe a bit of complacency had crept in to the side after last week and the girls needed to get it out of their system, and quickly, as they went very close to going 2 goals down after again watching Bedwell go past them before remembering what they were there for. That was probably the wake up call the girls needed as they pushed back up the pitch and Sasa was unlucky to see her shot just go a fraction high and wide. Still the girls attacked and in the 7th minute they got a deserved equaliser as Sadie shot across the Bedwell keeper and saw the ball nestle safely in the corner of the net. The Belles were starting to get the upper hand and were dominating the midfield with good, firm tackles and accurate passing from Sasa and Jess O' feeding Sadie and Kinnari up front. The Bedwell keeper made some good saves from both the front two before Kinnari put the Belles in to the lead in the 17th minute with a powerful shot from the edge of the box, after latching on to yet another great kick from Nicole in the Belles goal. The latter stages of the first half saw the introduction of Josephine, playing her first league game, and Jessica. Josephine tore in to the Bedwell midfield right from the word go and didn't stop causing them problems for the rest of the game. The Bedwell keeper continued to make good saves, denying Sadie on a couple of occasions and also stopping shots from Sasa and Kinnari. On the odd occasion that Bedwell did evade Josephine and Sasa, they found Meg, Ciara or Jess were there to stop them in their tracks. The half time whistle sounded with the Belles 2-1 up.



Kinnari, Meg and Jess



Impressive: Josephine and Jessica

Half time score: 1 v 2

Match Report by: Rob Kovacs



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The two newest additions to the team, Josephine and Jessica, were having great games with Jessica even managing to head the ball at the start of the second half as well as battling hard to win the ball in midfield. Sasa was involved with the majority of the Belles good moments, whether helping win the ball in defence, crunching tackles in the middle of the park, spraying passes around the pitch or probing runs in to Bedwells half and she was rewarded for her good work when she was alert enough to pounce on a loose ball in the area and blast it in to the back of the net, her second goal in successive weeks, for number 3. The Belles did still have to defend numerous corners but Meg, Ciara and Jess all worked well to eventually clear their lines and Nicole, in goal, had very little to do as the second half wore on. Bedwell were becoming frustrated by the Belles midfield domination and both Josephine and Sasa bore the brunt of that frustration as they won free kicks for over zealous tackles. The girls coped well with the physical aspects of the game and, to their credit, are not letting themselves be intimidated by the pushing and shoving or hard challenges and starting to meet like with like. Both sides continued to push hard, with only tired legs and more good goalkeeping preventing Hitchin from scoring again and good defensive work stopping Bedwell at the other end. Time and again the Belles pushed for that fourth goal, Sadie firing just wide on a couple of occasions and Kinnari coming closest as her shot bounced off the post. With 3 minutes left Kinnari did eventually manage to get that elusive fourth goal, and also her second of the game, as she fired in from close range after more good work from Sasa had won the ball in midfield. As the final whistle went the girls knew they had been in a tough fight but, after the early lapse in concentration, they ran out worthy winners.

Another good performance from the girls, all pulling as one. Great communication today from the girls, with lots of shouting and instructions. A very poor pitch didn't sit well with our usual passing game but the girls compensated magnificently by weighting the ball properly and also playing it off the ground. Some great individual performances not only from Meg, Kinnari and Sasa but also from the newer members of the team, Josephine and Jessica. Jessica showed some good touches and headed the ball as well (unusual for our age group) and Josephines terrier-like attitude and running had the opposition going in circles.



Belles defence clearing their lines



Celebrating the equaliser

Team: Nicole, Meg, Ciara, Jess O', Josephine, Jessica, Sasa, Kinnari, Sadie

Player of the Match: Tough one again with 3 in the running. Sasa wins this week for her great performance in midfield, excellent running, passing, tackling, heading and not being intimidated when the going got tough plus a goal to cap it all.