



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



Date: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010  
Kick-off: 10:30 am  
Venue: Ickleford Sports & Recreation Ground  
Competition: League

## HHB U11s 10 v 1 Harpenden Colts

The under 11s amazing home form continued today with yet another emphatic, double digit win, this time strolling to victory against Harpenden Colts. The Ickleford pitch was immaculate this morning having just been cut and overnight rain meant it was perfect for the Belles passing style of play. With four squad members missing this week, including both of the goalkeepers, Sasa was forced to don the blue keepers jersey for today's game with Sadie moving in to midfield. Emily was this weeks captain after her brilliant showing in last weeks victory over Bury. Harpenden won the toss and elected to change ends giving the Belles the kick off. The girls were straight on the attack but it soon fizzled out and for the first few minutes the Belles usual flowing game was being frustrated by Harpenden having 3 or 4 players shutdown any Belle with the ball. Gradually though, the Belles started to use the width of the pitch to their advantage and Kinnari was unlucky to see her shot go just wide of the post. The Belles took the lead on 9 minutes when captain Emily capitalised on sloppy defending and rammed the ball home. Two minutes later and the goal machine known as Sadie got her first of the game as she cut in from the left and fired in number 2. The Belles weren't having it all their own way though and Jess and Meg thwarted a couple of Harpenden attempts on goal. A rare sight at Ickleford, an opposition goal, occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup> minute as Harpenden were awarded a free kick well outside the area. The Harpenden striker made no mistake, blasting the ball high and handsome in to the top left corner giving, the somewhat reluctant Sasa in goal, no chance of stopping it. The Belles, although still in the lead, were finding it hard to get to grips with this game and Harpenden always looked dangerous on the break, fortunately Jess was marshalling her defence and the midfield well. Sasa made way in the Belles goal for Meg who kindly volunteered to take over between the sticks. The Belles continued pushing forward and Ciara was unlucky not to score her first of the season after breaking out of her own half but she just failed to get the ball on target. Emily and Kinnari also missed efforts to extend the Belles lead. In the 18<sup>th</sup> minute Sadie scored again, poking the ball past the helpless Harpenden keeper. Two minutes later it was 4-1 as Sadie wrapped up her hat trick, with arguably the best worked goal of the game, after latching on a fantastic long pass from Jess in defence. There was no stopping Sadie now and in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute it was 5 for the Belles after a great pass from Kinnari was met by Sadies outstretched foot. Still she wasn't finished and a minute before half time she got her fifth after beating 3 defenders and placing the ball in the back of the net.



Kinnari on the ball



Jess taking a corner



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## Half time score: 6 v 1

The half time talk was all about looking up before playing the pass and also making sure the girls used the width of the pitch to open up the game. Sasa, now playing in her familiar midfield role, drew first blood of the second half after winning the ball in the middle of the pitch and then beating the defence and goal keeper to the ball in a foot race before stabbing the ball in to the net. The Belles second half performance was looking a lot better with the girls obviously taking onboard the halftime advice and taking the time to look up before placing their pass. The magnificent Jess could be heard all game "bossing" her fellow defenders and midfielders as well as making timely interventions herself as well as playing some clever balls out of harms way. Likewise, Josephine was now weighing up her options before playing a pass and Harpenden were now finding it tough to cope. Goal number 8 came in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute as Emily made a great run down the left hand wing and her pinpoint pass found goal hungry Sadie ready to pounce and claim her sixth. By this time Meg, in the Belles goal, was very comfortable in her new found role and had little to do except for a few goal kicks. Kinnari, Emily, Sasa and Sadie all had good chances to increase the Hitchin lead but, the Harpenden goal lived a charmed life, as they all managed to either miss or shoot straight at the keeper. With 10 minutes to go, Sadie hit the Belles 9<sup>th</sup> and her own 7<sup>th</sup> with a great shot from distance, that the Harpenden keeper had no chance of saving. Could the Belles get to double figures again, for the third home game in a row? The answer was a resounding "yes", as Sasa hit the 10<sup>th</sup> with two minutes remaining, after she won a scramble in the Colts area and smashed the ball home. So yet another great win for the U11s. They were a bit slow to get in to their stride today but once they did there was no stopping them. Especially pleasing was the way they responded to the half time talk and that second half performance produced some lovely passing football.



Sasa scoring her first

**Team:** Meg, Jess, Ciara, Josephine, Sasa, Sadie, Kinnari, Emily

**Player of the Match:** Jess. The first one to win this twice this season. A great performance, some fantastic touches and passes particularly the one that led to goal No.4, and she didn't shut up all game, marshalling her teammates throughout.

Match Report by: Rob Kovacs