



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



Date: Saturday 6th November 2010
Kick-off: 10:30 am
Venue: Aycliffe Rd, Borehamwood
Competition: League

Borehamwood 2 v 2 Hitchin Belles

The Belles managed to hang on to their unbeaten record with a combative draw at Borehamwood. A massive squad of 13, including 2 debutants, made the trip to deepest Hertfordshire, with the team minibus making her first, welcome appearance of the season as well. Jess led the team for the second time this season and Borehamwood had kick off with the home team attacking down the hill. Ursula, in midfield, was also making her return to action after recovering from a broken arm. The first few minutes were pretty even with both teams having scoring chances, most notably Sadie for the Belles, who fired just wide of the Borehamwood goal. Nicole was called in to early action making two saves in succession as the hosts looked to gain the upper hand. However, in the 9th minute it was the Belles who took the lead with Emily coolly slotting home after great work from both Sadie and Kinnari on the flanks opened up the home defence. The lead was short lived though, as Borehamwood equalised in the 12th minute, after the Belles defence failed to clear a throw in, leaving Nicole no chance with the shot. The Belles seemed a little shell shocked with the goal and started to lose their shape and discipline. This was to prove costly as just 3 minutes later Borehamwood took the lead, after their striker was left unmarked on the edge of the Belles area. The Belles seemed a shadow of their usual selves, as Borehamwood pushed to extend their lead and only Nicole, in the Belles goal, stood between them. Towards the end of the half the girls started to regain some composure and good work from Jess and Sasa managed to put Borehamwood on the back foot as Sadie had a couple of chances to get the Belles level with several shots on goal but the nearest one hit the post before bouncing out of play.



Under 11s on the road



Nicole in action

Half time score: 2 v 1



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The second half started on a better note as the Belles went straight on the offensive, and Borehamwood had their goal keeper to thank for keeping them in the lead, making a good save from Sadie. The introduction of Josephine in to the Belles midfield helped to open things up a little and all of a sudden the girls seemed to step up a gear. Sasa was next to go close but saw her shot well saved again by the keeper. It wasn't all one way traffic though, and again Nicole rescued the Belles with two quick saves to keep them in the game. Sadie, yet again, had a chance to score but the Borehamwood keeper did well to hold on to what seemed a goal bound effort from a narrow angle. 10 minutes in to the half the girls did manage to get that elusive equaliser, as the mercurial Josephine left the Borehamwood midfield and defence for dead, and cleverly found Sadie, who finished off a great move, by burying the ball in the back of the net and claim goal number 24 for the season. Yet still the Belles seemed intent on letting the points slip away, firstly at a drop ball they left 4 players unmarked between them and Nicole in goal and, after surviving that, then attempting to clear the ball by kicking it towards their own goal and the lurking home teams' strikers and finally Sasa making a last ditch clearance as the Belles defence went awol. Beth and Katie then came on to make their Belles debuts, as the Belles tried to snatch a winner. Josephine and Sasa, both contenders for player of the game, were causing the opposition midfield problems and for the first time in the game the Belles seemed to be in control. Josephine had a chance to put the Belles ahead and Sadie watched as, yet again, the keeper stopped her shot. The game was heading for stalemate as the clock ticked down the last few seconds but the Belles nearly blew it, as they let Borehamwood bear down on goal. With only Nicole to beat in a 3v1, it looked certain that they would grab a last second win, but plucky Nicole had other ideas and stood firm and large in the goal and she earned her team mates gratitude with a brave save from a well struck shot. It's nice to win comfortably and, arguably, they had the chances to put this one to bed but games like this are the ones they will be judged on. Although not one of their better performances, the girls managed to salvage something from it whereas probably this time last year their heads would have gone down and they would have capitulated. Another bright spot from the game is how the girls are dealing with the aggression side of things and are not letting themselves be intimidated by more physical opponents.



Sadie mistakes Em for a size 4 Mitre ball!!



Katie & Beth with Sadie in the background

Team: Nicole, Meg, Jess O' (capt), Ursula, Jessica, Josephine, Sasa, Kinnari, Emily, Ciara, Sadie, Beth, Katie

Player of the Match: Nicole- Fantastic keeping. Blameless for both goals and a magnificent, brave save at the end to keep the girls unbeaten.

Match Report by: Rob Kovacs