



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



Date: Saturday 11th December 2010
Kick-off: 10:30 am
Venue: Ickleford Sports & Recreation Ground
Competition: HGFPL

HHBs U11 3 v 2 Watford Ladies

The U11s managed to hold on to their unbeaten record at Ickleford this morning, but only just, after a close game against Watford Ladies. With a near full complement of 13 players to choose from, the Belles were expected to win this game without too much of a problem but the Belles, never wanting to take the easy route, almost conspired to let, what looked like a comfortable lead, slip. Sadie was today's captain, after her goal scoring exploits versus St Albans last month and she won the toss giving the Belles the ko. The girls, to their credit, went straight on the offensive and Sadie was the first to have a shot but was unlucky to see it go narrowly wide. Watford then had a couple of chances, but their forwards were stopped twice in quick succession by Meg and Jess in the Belles defence. Maybe the long break of 4 weeks was part of the problem, but the Belles were looking slightly rusty and were second to the ball for the majority of the early 50-50 balls. However, the Belles slowly managed to get back in to their stride and good work from Sasa and Kinnari in midfield started to open up the game and Emily, out on the flanks, was beginning to cause the Watford defence problems. It came as no real surprise when the Belles took the lead on 9 minutes, after Sadie latched on to a pass from Emily and after outwitting and outmuscling the Watford defenders, she calmly slotted home. The Belles stretched their lead 5 minutes later after a great passing move involving Kinnari, Sasa, Emily and Sadie ended with the latter blasting the ball past the Watford keeper for hers and the Belles second. Wholesale substitutions then followed allowing some of the newer girls a bit of game time, but the lack of experience showed as they allowed Watford in, albeit with a great passing move starting in their own half, to equalise with 5 minutes of the half left. All of a sudden it was backs to the wall, as Watford sensed the Belles were in disarray and only great defending from Meg and good keeping from Nicole kept Watford at bay and ensured the Belles finished the half with a one goal advantage.



Jingle Belles!



Ursula battles for the ball

Half time score: 2 v 1

Match Report by: Rob Kovacs



Hitchin Hearts Belles FC 2010-2011



Under 11's Match Report

The second half resumed with the same 7 that started the first and the improvement showed immediately as the Watford keeper did well to save from Emily and then Kinnari within the first couple of minutes. Sadie was to see another of her shots go wide after good work from Tanya sent her free and yet another was well stopped by the Watford goalie, before she finally managed to hit the back of the net again. Emily, on another of her solo runs, was unceremoniously chopped down outside the Watford penalty area and up stepped Sadie to blast the resulting free kick straight past a helpless keeper, to claim yet another hat trick, the fifth time in 8 games that she's notched three or more goals in a game. The Belles continued to press with Sadie, Emily and Kinnari all seeing shots saved or wide. Sasa was also unlucky to see her corner rebound off a post before being cleared by the Watford defence. Hitchin were having the vast majority of the possession and chances but for the second time in the game they then attempted to press the self destruct button. This time defenders leaving players unmarked and midfielders not tracking back allowed Watford, with yet another good passing move, in to snatch a lifeline. It was looking like a repeat of the first half as the Belles who had been on top for much of the game, struggled to cope with the Watford attacks, and again only fantastic defending from Meg, prevented Watford grabbing what would have been an undeserved leveller. With the last few minutes seeming to take an eternity, the Belles did manage to hold on for a narrow victory and claim all 3 points and now take their record in to next weeks top of the table clash against the only other unbeaten team, leaders Bury Rangers. The girls know though that a performance like this won't be good enough against 100% Bury and only a massive improvement will allow them to get anything from that game.



Meg guards the Belles goal



Sadie leads another Belles attack

Team: Nicole, Jess O', Meg, Kinnari, Ursula, Sasa, Jessica, Beth, Katie, Tanya, Ciara, Emily, Sadie.

Player of the Match: Meg: Strong defending saves the day.