



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



Date: Saturday 4th September 2010
Kick-off: 10:00 am
Venue: Lancaster Ave, Luton
Competition: Friendly

Luton Town U11s 1 v 0 Hitchin Belles U11s

With only one spare Saturday before the HGFPL season starts in earnest, the Belles U11s made the short trip to Luton for what will be their only pre-season friendly. Both teams had new players to try out and the coaches also wanted to see how some of their established players would fare in different positions. The Belles had the luxury of 11 players in their squad with Sadie being the only absentee.

First Half

Ursula was captain for the day, after her great performances in last seasons end of season tournaments. Luton kicked off with the benefit of a slight downhill slope but the Belles were soon in possession and Emily showed the first glimpses of her speed as the Belles went on the attack. Both sides cancelled each other out in the early exchanges, with plenty of good midfield play and lots of off the ball movement. Hitchin started to get the upper hand mid way through the first half but to no avail, Emily having a chance to put the Belles in the lead but shooting inches wide. Worryingly, Ursula slumped to the ground soon after and came off as a precaution letting Josephine come on for her first full taste of Belles football. Within seconds she was making a nuisance of her self in the middle of the park, tackling and chasing the ball as though she'd been playing for years. 20 minutes in and the Belles had their best chance of the half when the ball fell to Sasa on the edge of the Luton box, who sent a powerful shot goal bound only for the Luton keeper to make a marvellous low save, with the ball bouncing away for a corner. Another new player, Jessica, then made her bow in Belles colours. Luton enjoyed the majority of the possession for the last 10 minutes of the first half but they also lacked that killer touch in front of goal and when they did threaten, Nicole now in the role of goal keeper, coped admirably with fantastic handling and domination of her area. The first half ended with lots of creative, flowing moves from both sides but remained goal less.



Jess holding midfield



Sasa's 1st half shot

Half time score: 0 v 0

Match Report by: Rob Kovacs



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Second Half

A fully recovered Ursula, made it back on to the pitch for the start of the second half and her efforts, combined with Kinnari's clever flicks and touches, soon had the Belles on the attack again. Josephine, still chasing hard, was causing problems in the centre of the pitch and Meg, Jess and Ciara at the back were proving to be pretty solid and Nicole was starting to look unbeatable. Emily then had another chance to score but was unlucky to see her shot go wide again. Sasa's clever distribution and the Belles 2nd half use of space was starting to open Luton up and it was, surely, only a matter of time before a goal came! Tanya created the Belles best chance of the second half, when, after getting to the ball on the bye line and crossing the ball in front of the goal, it only needed the slightest of touches to put it in the back of the net but unfortunately none of the Belles players were near enough. Then the inevitable happened, with time ticking away and the match heading for stalemate, Luton attacked and their speed and numbers overwhelmed the Belles defence but it still took a well placed shot to beat Nicole. With only minutes left the Belles tried to conjure up a deserved equaliser but after all the effort put in earlier they were, understandably, drained and Luton to their credit held out for the win.

A great all round performance from the girls today, getting straight back in to it and not looking like they've had the summer off. Some fantastic passing and movement off the ball, especially in the second half and unlucky to have lost. The score didn't matter at all today as it was about the girls getting back in to the swing of things and for the new players to see what's required of them in the coming season. Some lovely individual performances today, Nicole taking over the goal keeping role looked a natural between the sticks, Meg as solid as ever at the back, Kinnari's flicks, stepovers and pull backs and Emily's blistering pace to mention a few but all contributing to a fine team display. Hopefully, the girls will carry this over to the season proper and on past seasons we know they probably will. The most pleasing aspect of the whole day was how the new players Jessica and Josephine both settled in and contributed to that team performance.

It just leaves me to say "Well Done" to all involved today and also a very big "Thank You" to Luton Town U11s and Ian in particular for arranging today's friendly at such short notice.



Emily uses her blistering pace



Nicoles safe hands

Team: Nicole, Meg, Jess O', Tanya, Ciara, Jess, Josephine, Ursula (**capt**), Sasa, Kinnari, Emily

Player of the Match: Josephine- A fantastic achievement on her first full game for the Belles. Kept running, tackling, chasing and not letting the opposition settle on the ball all game.