

Maidenhead United vs. Aldershot Town
Southern Region Women's Football League Premier Division
27 November 2011

HUBBORT AND HUBBARD HELP SHOTS TO DRAW

Amy Hubbort scored her first goal for the Shots, helping them to a point at Ryan Salmon's old club Maidenhead United on a bright autumnal afternoon in Berkshire. However the main talking point was an incident following the match involving the referee and Holly Gayler, with the player reported for offensive language to Hampshire FA.

The Shots came into the game off the back of an enthralling 3-1 win over the Army Medical Services in midweek, with Amy Hubbort dropping to the bench to be replaced by Hannah Bramhall and Jade Ferguson replaced Lauren Carnell in attack.

The Shots started the game in dominant fashion with Ferguson creating several efforts in the opening quarter-hour.

There were fierce tackles flying in from both Holly Gayler and Hannah Bramhall, which were sensibly dealt with by the referee with only a firm word being issued to both players.

GOAL FLASH: Shots 0-1 (41 minutes)

Towards the end of the first half, and Aldershot eventually conceded, with a corner not being cleared properly allowed a Maidenhead player to shoot across the face of Lesley Hubbard's goal and into the back of the net.

HT: Maidenhead United 1 Aldershot Town 0

At the interval, Katie Salmon replaced a rather green-looking Amy Lawrence, and she was straight into the action by shoring up the defence at left back.

Jade Ferguson continued to front the Aldershot attack, and although she made several threatening advances on the Maidenhead defence, she was repeatedly caught offside.

Midway through the second half, and Ryan Salmon made his second change, replacing Caz Shephard with Amy Hubbort.

With 9 minutes to play, Ferguson had a superb chance to equalise when she was one-on-one with the goalkeeper with Hubbort available to the left, but instead cannoned the ball over the bar. This was the last straw for Ryan Salmon, as he immediately withdrew Ferguson in place of Wallman, and with almost immediate effect as an effort from the striker tested the Maidenhead keeper.

In the final five minutes, Bramhall dodged an almost-certain yellow card, as she brought down a Maidenhead attacker who was barrelling towards the Shots penalty area.

GOAL FLASH: Shots 1-1 (Amy Hubbort 89')

With barely 90 seconds of play remaining, Amy Hubbort showed an experienced head on young shoulders as she shrugged off her defender to coolly placed her shot past the on-rushing goalkeeper and gift the Shots a hard-fought equaliser to the sheer ecstasy of Salmon and Matt Leary on the touchline.

Suprisingly, when the 90 regulations minutes were up, the referee immediately blew the full time whistle – the Shots anticipating at least two minutes with the two substitutions made, the equalising goal and Bramhall's foul towards the end.

FT: Maidenhead United 1 Aldershot Town 1

Squad

- 40. Lesley Hubbard
- 2. Amber Marsh
- 3. Holly Gayler 
- 4. Di Smith
- 5. Hannah Bramhall
- 6. Sian Houghton
- 7. Emma North
- 10. Caz Shephard (14. Amy Hubbort 82')
- 11. Jade Ferguson (12. Laura Wallman 66')
- 15. Nikki Moore
- 17. Amy Lawrence (16. Katie Salmon 46')

Player of the Match sponsored by Connaught Leisure Centre: Nikki Moore

"Your first goal for any club is always a great achievement, but for Amy this is a real confidence-booster for her. She had nasty ligament injury sustained in training in the second week of the season, putting her out for nearly two months. She also becomes one of our youngest-ever scorers. We next face Southampton, who deservedly dumped us out of the FA Cup this season, so the ladies will be out for revenge.

We want to finish 2011 on a high, and we have a run of games that are all winnable. If we can complete December unbeaten, it will put us in a good frame of mind for the second half of the season.

Matt Leary