

Chesham United Reserves vs. Aldershot Town
Southern Region Women's Football League
Chairman's Cup 1st Round
29 January 2012

SHOTS DEMOLISH CHESHAM IN CHAIRMANS CUP

The Shots' debut in both the Chairman's Cup resulted in a resounding 5-1 win away at Chesham United's Reserves side.

Holly Gayler returned from suspension to replace the absent Amber Marsh, whilst Caz Shephard and Laura Wallman replaced the injured Lauren Carnell and Amy Lawrence, although the latter was named as a substitute.

On a cold afternoon outside RAF Naphill, Chesham got the game underway and were able to snuff out the Aldershot attack in the opening 10 minutes, and even created a few chances themselves.

GOAL FLASH: Shots 1-0 (Sian Houghton 21')

As the ball bounced around inside the area, the Chesham defence scrambled to clear the ball before a Shots player poked it home. There was a dispute as to whether Sian Houghton or Laura Wallman had scored, but the midfielder was adjudged to have made the final touch.

GOAL FLASH: Shots 2-0 (Jade Ferguson 31')

The Shots doubled their advantage ten minutes later as Jade Ferguson got her sixth of the season from close range.

PENALTY: Shots 3-0 (Laura Wallman 38')

Amy Hubbert then earned the Shots a penalty as her persistent run past the defence caused the Chesham 'keeper to challenge the young midfielder. Although Hubbert was able to round the goalkeeper, she was then hauled down leaving the referee no option to award a spot-kick, which was calmly converted by Wallman.

HT: Chesham United Reserves 0 Aldershot Town 3

No changes were made at the half-time interval by both sides, and Aldershot carried on where they left off in the opening minutes of the second half.

GOAL FLASH: Shots 4-0 (Laura Wallman 49')

Wallman grabbed her second of the game four minutes after the restart following a succession of passes between Shephard, Moore and Ferguson.

GOAL FLASH: Shots 5-0 (Laura Wallman 59' – HAT TRICK)

Wallman completed her hat-trick inside 21 minutes after another series of passes from midfield.

There was then drama on 65 minutes, as a dangerous lunge from Caz Shephard was unpunished by the referee, but caused a few tempers to flare. Indeed Shephard should consider herself lucky not to have been red-carded, considering the current debate over dangerous tackles in the higher echelons of the sport.

Holly Gayler then scythed down a Chesham attacker in front of Shots' assistant, who immediately awarded the free kick with no protest. Gayler was equally lucky not to be cautioned by an extremely lenient referee.

PENALTY: Shots 5-1 (84')

The game took another bizarre twist as Di Smith shoulder-barged a defender off the ball. Whilst the majority of referees would not have punished it, and indeed Leary flagging for a goal kick, the young official in charge awarded Chesham a consolatory penalty with six minutes to go. The penalty was slammed home past Lesley Hubbard.

FT: Chesham United Reserves 1 Aldershot Town 5

Squad

1. Lesley Hubbard
2. Katie Salmon
3. Holly Gayler
4. Di Smith
6. Sian Houghton
7. Emma North
9. Laura Wallman
10. Caz Shephard
11. Jade Ferguson
14. Amy Hubbort
15. Nikki Moore

Subs

17. Amy Lawrence

Connaught Leisure Centre Player of the Match:

Caz Shephard

"A superb result! Lots of good flowing football from the girls, and a great hat-trick for Wallsy [Laura Wallman]. We're obviously confident of winning our next cup tie against either Oxford City or Beaconsfield SYCOB, but both sides are a good standard and we've learnt from our earlier League Cup tie not to underestimate Division 1 sides. We now prepare for a big match against Maidenhead United. We only have a couple of minor injury worries, but Amy Lawrence should be back for the weekend and as for Lauren we will have to wait and see."

Matt Leary

The Shots currently lie 6th in the table, still two points behind Southampton Women in 5th and three behind next week's opponents Maidenhead United. Bracknell have taken a 3-point lead over Oxford United at the head of the table, however the U's have two games in hand and have a 100% record so far this season.

However the Shots could be awarded up to nine points by the Southern Region League following three unfulfilled fixtures by opposing teams. News of this will be confirmed soon.