

Wednesday 6th October 2011

BOREHAM WOOD 1, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0
(FA YOUTH CUP – 2nd QUALIFYING ROUND)

The Blues youngsters exited from the FA Youth Cup by a single goal at Meadow Park. In all honesty though, the hosts were much stronger than the Bishops during most of the match and could have won by a greater margin. Wood missed a penalty in the first half and Stortford's defence gave a very good account of themselves with keeper Matthew Gill particularly in fine form.

The Blues can take plenty of positives from their run in this season's Competition and were eliminated by a good side and it will be interesting to see how far Wood progress.

The early stages of the tie were even with both Jonathan Nzewgo and Luke Milbourne having tentative shots held by Wood keeper Jake Wilton in the opening minutes.

After a while, the hosts began to get the edge in midfield and Matthew Gill held on to a low effort from Robert Hastings before the Stortford keeper gathered the loose ball in front of Steve O'Connor when the striker's control let him down in front of goal in the 17th minute.

Wood were awarded a penalty in the 28th minute. A cross from Max McCann was headed against the bar by Pelly Ruddock and Jack Julier handled a follow-up shot on the line. However, Harvey Scott-Morris hammered the spot kick well over the crossbar. Two minutes later Gill was in action, diving to save a header from O'Connor on the line and then, shortly afterwards, Blues defender Harry Brookes cleared up well to rob Scott-Morris as the Wood player broke towards goal down the middle.

Stortford fell behind ten minutes before the break. It seemed the danger had passed when Harvey Scott-Morris missed a cross from Pelly Ruddock six yards out. However, the Blues defence failed to clear and when the ball was retrieved and returned into the middle SCOTT-MORRIS tucked the ball past Gill from close range (1-0).

Gill made an excellent blocking save to deny Ruddock in the 42nd minute and also saved from Larry Balogun before the interval.

Half-time: 1-0

When Gill didn't hold on to a difficult cross from the left in the 53rd minute skipper Jack Julier was on hand to head away off the line after Robert Hastings had headed goalwards. On the hour Ollie Thorpe was not far wide with a long range drive but for the most part Boreham Wood kept the Blues on the back foot and Gill was fully extended to turn an angled shot from Ruddock round the post for a corner.

The Blues best chance of netting an equaliser came in the 68th minute. Substitute Craig Swaby swung over a cross from the right that reached Jonathan Nzewgo towards the far post. The youngster's acute angled shot was kept out by keeper Jake Wilton's legs and a Wood defender did well to block Terrell Hunter's follow-up shot and then seconds later a Swaby header was inches over the angle of the post and crossbar.

That was as good as it got and the remainder of the tie saw Wood in control. McCann hit the bar with a free-kick in the 87th minute and Ruddock netted in stoppage time but the goal was disallowed. Ollie Thorpe, Harry Brookes and Taylor O'Toole were shown yellow cards during the match by Referee Andrew Loe.

Full time: 1-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Matthew Gill; Harry Brookes; Taylor O'Toole; Jack Julier; Scott Cruickshank; Craig Swaby; Ollie Thorpe; Jonathan Nzewgo; Terrell Hunter; Kobby Owusu (sub – Craig Swaby 52 mins) ; Luke Milbourne (sub – Rob Pearce 56 mins; Max Fernee (sub – Alan Dereham 62 mins).
Unused substitutes: Kane Griffin and Jamie Gage.

Attendance: 51.