



Saturday 29th October 2011

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1, SALISBURY CITY 2
(FA CHALLENGE CUP – 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND)

The Blues hopes of reaching the 1st Round proper for the first time in five years faded just before half-time when the visitors from Wiltshire netted twice – their second a freak goal. Scott Shulton scored direct from a free-kick seconds before the end of stoppage time before the final whistle but it was a case of too little too late. In truth Stortford never really got going in this Cup-tie and although City were nothing out of the ordinary they were the more composed and organised side of the two and deserved to go through.

Ian Walker named unchanged starting eleven with Sean Francis still not fit enough to play. Added to the bench was Steffan Gaisie who had completed his three match ban. Dwight Gayle threatened early on and his 23 yard snap shot at goal narrowly whistled low past keeper Conor Gough's left upright in the 4th minute. However, Salisbury soon had an early edge on proceedings in midfield in the breezy conditions at Woodside Park.

In the 18th minute a back header from City's Charlie Knight was straight at Jordan Archer and then, at the other end, Gayle was close again with a 25 yard effort after being set up by Daniel Subuola. For a short period the Blues were having a good spell and following a move involving several players Scott Shulton was not far off target with a shot on the turn. In the 31st minute the roles were reversed as Dwight Gayle linked with Daniel Subuola on the left and the latter's angled strike was held by Gough at the near post.

A free-kick from Luke Ruddick towards the edge of the box wasn't held by Jordan Archer but Brian Dutton's lob at goal cleared the bar. Coming up to the break the visitors were having the better of the exchanges as the Blues gave the ball away too easily and too often. Finally, the Whites took the lead in the 41st minute following a corner on the right. Adam Kelly played the flag-kick back to Stuart Anderson whose deep cross to the far post was headed inside the upright from 8 yards by RYAN BRETT (0-1).

Worse was to follow as towards the end of the two minutes added on at the conclusion of the first half City doubled their lead with a freak goal. The Blues looked to have snuffed out a City attack on right but when the ball was collected by Sebastian Dunbar to hit upfield the defenders' clearance struck CHARLIE KNIGHT 15 yards from goal and the rebound, which could have gone anywhere, squeezed just inside Jordan Archer's right hand post (0-2).

Half time: 0-2

The Blues needed to recover quickly from the setbacks and two minutes after the restart a long throw from Dwight Gayle was back-headed goalwards by Paco Craig but keeper Conor Gough held the ball under the bar.

City looked the more likely to add to their tally though and Jordan Archer saved a shot from Jake Reid and shortly afterwards, in the 51st minute, a far post header from Adam Kelly. The visitors also missed a chance in the 57th minute after a corner on the left Kelly was headed back across goal by Brian Dutton and Ben Adelsbury drove the ball wide from 10 yards range. With twenty minutes left Archer turned a shot from Reid over the bar, then stopped a header from Dutton soon afterwards before Kelly also went close striking a firm shot narrowly past the far post.

With time beginning to run out the visitors began to sit back a little and Stortford were getting much more possession and pushing forward. However, in the last minute of normal time, it took an excellent tackle from Ritchie Jones to deny a shooting opportunity for Reid in front of goal.

The Blues first real opportunity in the second half to reduce the arrears came in the first minute of four minutes' stoppage time. Substitutes Ade Cole and Junior Dadson combined on the right and Dadson's short cross was hit inches wide of the near post by Steffan Gaisie.

Stortford did finally net a consolation goal in the final minute of stoppage time. Charlie Knight fouled Ade Cole out wide on the right and SCOTT SHULTON lashed the resultant free-kick from fully 30 yards past everyone, including startled keeper Conor Gough, and inside the far post (1-2).

During the tie Referee Craig Hicks showed yellow cards to the Blues' Scott Shulton and Daniel Subuola and also booked City's Adam Kelly and Dan Fitchett.

Full time: 1-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Jordan Archer; Ritchie Jones; Sebastian Dunbar (sub – Steffan Gaisie 81 mins) ; Alli Abdullahi (sub – Ade Cole 55 mins); Paco Craig; Phil Anderson; Lewis Whiteley (sub – Junior Dadson 72 mins); Reece Prestedge; Dwight Gayle; Scott Shulton; Daniel Subuola.
Unused substitutes: Mitch Hahn, Bai Mass Lette Jallow and Jack Jeffries

SALISBURY CITY: Conor Gough; Luke Ruddick (sub – Josh Casey 55 mins); Ryan Brett; Ben Adelsbury; Brian Dutton; Chris Giles; Adam Kelly; Stuart Anderson; Dan Fitchett (sub – Matt Wright 81 mins); Jake Reid (sub – Claudio Herbert 90+2 mins); Charlie Knight.
Unused substitutes: Darrell Clarke, Michael Cooper, Lewis Stockford and Tommy Smith.

Attendance: 501