



Thursday 4th August 2011

WALTHAM ABBEY 4, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1
(PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY)

The Blues were second best to a lively Waltham Abbey side at "Capershotts" as they crashed to an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the Ryman Division 1 North side.

Although Stortford struck the frame of the goal on four occasions in the second half the hosts deserved their three goal margin win as they constantly caused problems to the Blues' defence when they broke upfield.

The Abbots, managed by Paul Wickenden, son of former Stortford stalwart, Ray Wickenden, had Ayton Coley playing up front for them. Coley featured for Stortford's second string last season and his speed led to the hosts' opening goal in the 7th minute when he broke into the box and was brought down by Max Lette Jallow. STEVE CAWLEY duly beat Nicky Eyre from the penalty spot (1-0).

Stortford, who included Scott Shulton, fought back and almost equalised in the 13th minute when Michael Bakare played Mitch Hahn through the middle but before Hahn could get his shot in he was denied by a fine tackle by defender Gbenga Ladega. The equaliser did arrive ten minutes later following a move on the right. Reece Prestedge slipped the ball through for SCOTT SHULTON to run on to and net with a low shot from 15 yards that beat keeper Lewis Amos and finished in the far bottom corner of the net (1-1).

In the 27th minute Nicky Eyre saved twice in quick succession to foil Coley and the Stortford keeper had to deal with a number of shots from the home side's strikers.

However, with five minutes remaining of the first half, the Blues had a chance to take the lead as Shulton cut in from the left and squared the ball across the face of the goal but Craig Calver's shot was saved by keeper Amos. Abbey broke quickly to the other end and AYRTON COLEY netted with an acute angled shot past Eyre (2-1).

Half time: 2-1

Substitute Junior Dadson hit the bar soon after the restart with a fine chip from the edge of the box and then Craig Calver hit the outside of an upright shortly afterwards following a concerted attack. However, Abbey extended their lead in the 57th minute following indecision in the Stortford defence allowed GBENGA LADEGA to poke the ball in from close range (3-1).

Stortford's cause wasn't helped in the last half-hour of the match when, after using all their substitutes, Junior Dadson was forced off with a knee injury. Ian Walker wanted to bring back on to the field one of the players who had already been substituted but Referee Barry Holderness refused him permission to do so and therefore the Blues played the last half-hour with only ten players on the pitch.

Blues' substitute Eduino Furtado scraped the bar with a deep cross-cum-shot from the right wing and then seven minutes from time Craig Calver hit the underside of the bar from close range following a Les Thompson cross.

In the 88th minute the Abbotts also hit the bar and from the rebound XANIEL DOKU netted their fourth goal although he clearly used his hand to put the ball over the line (4-1).

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Full time: 4-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Nicky Eyre; Bai Max Lette Jallow; Michael Bakare; Mitch Hahn; Mo Habu; Phil Anderson; Ade Cole; Reece Prestedge; Craig Calver; Alex Read; Scott Shulton

2nd half substitutes: Ali Abdullahi, Les Thompson, Eduino Furtado and Junior Dadson

Attendance: 40