



Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011

WARE 0, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1  
(HERTS CHARITY CUP 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND)

Stortford began their defence of the County Charity Cup with a single goal victory at Wodson Park thanks to a second half goal from substitute Alex Read. The Blues will now travel to play Hemel Hempstead Town in the Semi-Final of the Competition early next year.

Although the hosts caused a few problems after the break when the Blues' defence looked vulnerable, Stortford always looked the more composed side against opponents who were a little over-physical at times.

There were a number of goalscoring opportunities for both sides throughout this encounter and the first fell to the Blues after just two minutes. A deep free-kick from Mo Habu found Craig Calver in space in the area but his shot from an angle from 12 yards was turned round the near post by keeper Obey Murefu.

At the other end striker Ricci Crace worked his way into a good position before seeing his shot turned away one handed by Nicky Eyre for a corner. Stortford themselves were awarded a corner in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute and Mitch Hahn's flag kick was headed over from close range by Michael Bakare.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> minute Junior Dadson drove over the bar after cutting in from the left but shortly afterwards Eyre had to be sharp and alert, saving well to keep out a low effort from Darelle Russell.

The lively action at both ends continued with a shot on the turn from the edge of the box by Bakare in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute flying just over the Ware crossbar. Then, right on the break, Ade Cole crossed from the right and Bakare hit a snap shot from 18 yards that was well saved by keeper Murefu.

Half-time: 0-0

The Blues lost concentration a minute after the restart as Crace was left unmarked on the edge of the box but the hosts' striker hit the bar.

In the 55<sup>th</sup> minute Ian Walker brought Alex Read on for Bakare who had been injured by an over-strong challenge a few minutes earlier. Within a minute the substitute netted what proved to be the winning goal. An attack from Stortford saw the ball switched over to the left side of the area and READ, although under pressure, managed to angle a shot past Murefu and the ball found the net despite defender Jack Friend's efforts to clear it off the goal-line (0-1).

Ware fought back after the reversal and Eyre blocked a shot from Ben Andreos after the striker had broken from the left and then Crace lifted the ball over bar after a free-kick fell to him in the six yard box.

Junior Dadson went close after Calver had slipped the ball through to him in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute and the Blues then forced a number of corners during a good spell. Good work by Hahn and Read on the right in the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute led to the former player crossing and Murefu producing a fine save to keep out Calver's close range flick.

When Stortford lost possession in midfield with four minutes remaining they had Eyre to thank when he saved a low shot from substitute Ted Clark at full stretch.

The last action of the tie saw Reece Prestedge chip the ball just wide of the target after the Stortford skipper collected a pass from Craig Calver. Just a little earlier Prestedge was booked by Referee Jake

Hillier for dissent whilst three home side players also were shown a yellow card by the Match Official during the game.

Full time: 0-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Nicky Eyre; Bai Max Lette Jallow; Phil Anderson; Mitch Hahn (sub – Ali Abdullahi 88 mins); Mo Habu; Reece Prestedge; Les Thompson; Ade Cole; Craig Calver; Michael Bakare (sub – Alex Read 55 mins); Junior Dadson.

Unused substitutes: Blue Braithwaite, Danny Francis and Moshood Olafunmishe.

WARE: Obey Murefu; Jimmy Martin; Denny Webb; Joe Bicknall (sub – Ted Clark 46 mins); Jack Friend; Vince Rispoli; Darelle Russell (sub – Davy Edmee 73 mins); Danny Johnson; Ben Andreos; Ricci Crace; Tom Query (sub – Leigh Rose 86 mins).

Unused substitutes: Cedric Kayembe and Bert Greenwood.

Attendance: 114.