

Thursday 14th Jan 2014

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Royston Town FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Royston Town 0—1 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 0 - 0 : Att 131

## HERTS CHARITY CUP – Semi Final

An Anthony Church goal a minute after the interval settled this tie and sent the Blues through to their fourth successive County Charity Cup Final. They will meet St Albans City or Hitchin Town in the Final either in March or April.

The match, played on a heavy pitch, was a scrappy dour affair with few chances at either end. The hosts doing well in their Division of the Calor Gas Southern League this season gave the Blues a tough encounter closing down quickly and allowing them few opportunities to get any fluency in their play.

This match was the first of Reece Prestedge 's suspension whilst Josh Fagbohun and Jake Hall were in the starting eleven for the first time.

Brian Woodall was unlucky with an angled shot in the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute that was inches past the far upright whilst ten minutes later a Jake Hall attempt at goal was just over the bar after a run from almost the halfway line.

The nearest the Crows came to scoring early on was after 17 minutes when a cross from the right by Ryan Lockett evaded the Stortford defence but striker Craig Hammond 's didn 't get enough power in his effort and Sam Cowler dropped to his left to save fairly comfortably.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> minute Anthony Church 's diagonal pass found Josh Fagbohun advancing from the left and the youngster 's acute angled shot was saved at the second attempt by Royston keeper George Darlow.

The Blues had most of the possession up to the break and the nearest they came to getting a goal in the minutes leading up to the interval was following a Matt Johnson free-kick in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute that deflected out to Brian Woodall who drilled a 15 yard shot over the target.

Half time: 0-0

The winning goal was scored in the opening minute of the second half. Josh Fagbohun crossed low from the right and although Brian Woodall miskicked in front of goal Andre Costa gained possession close by at the far post and when his shot was blocked by stopper Darlow, ANTHONY CHURCH was on hand to net from close range (0-1).

In the 54<sup>th</sup> minute Stortford nearly doubled their lead when Brian Woodall 's cross from the left reached Harry Baker whose

acute angled effort struck the top of the crossbar.

From that point the hosts had most of the play and had the edge in midfield. However, Sam Cowler 's goal was rarely threatened although he had to be alert to hold on to a volley from substitute Antonio Murray in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute and then shortly afterwards an awkward free-kick from another substitute Kaan Fehmi.

An attack with three minutes of normal time remaining saw Matt Johnson and Cliff Akurang set Liam Enver-Marum on track for goal but the substitute 's attempt was tipped round the far post for a corner by Darlow.

In added time Jhai Dhillon for Royston threatened an equaliser when cutting in from the left but Sam Cowler scrambled the ball away for a corner.

Referee Anthony Serrano booked the Blues ' George Allen, Callum McNaughton and Josh Fagbohun and also Royston ' s Sam Spencer and Spyros Mentis.

Full time: 0-1

BISHOP ' S STORTFORD: Sam Cowler; Harry Baker; Andre Costa ( sub – Luke Milbourne 65 mins ); George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall ( sub – Liam Enver-Marum 84 mins ); Josh Fagbohun ( sub – Cliff Akurang 65 mins ); Jake Hall.

Unused substitutes: Johnny Herd and Joe Wright.

ROYSTON TOWN: George Darlow; Adie Cambridge; Jhai Dhillon; Sam Spencer; Jack Bradshaw; Spyros Mentis; Ryan Lockett; Robbie Nightingale ( sub – Carl Edwards 65 mins ); Craig Hammond; Mitchell Bryant ( sub – Kaan Fehmi 58 mins ); Luke Robins ( sub – Antonio Murray 58 mins ).

Unused substitutes: Taylor Parr and Nick Thompson.