

Tuesday 5th August 2014

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD 4, POTTERS BAR TOWN 0
(HERTS CHARITY CUP 1ST ROUND)**

Aided by a hat-trick from skipper Anthony Church the Blues recorded a straightforward victory in their first defence of the Herts County Charity Cup. Two early goals following corners and a third goal leading up to the break put Stortford in a comfortable and commanding lead by the halfway point of the contest and a fourth in the 90th minute wrapped up a safe passage through to the Semi-Final stage where they will meet fellow Vanarama Conference South side St Albans City at home later in the season.

Stortford, with five players making their competitive debuts – Rio Bryan Edwards, Joe Tabiri, Jamie Guy, Declan Hunt and Spencer McCall, were in control of the tie for the majority of the match and were rarely troubled by the Scholars. The visiting Calor Gas Southern League side showed some attractive approach play but were restricted largely to long range attempts that keeper Joe Wright dealt with capably.

Blues' first goal came in the 11th minute when Declan Hunt's corner from the left was clipped into the net by **PHIL ANDERSON** running in towards the near post. It was the returning central defender's first ever goal for Stortford (1-0).

The score-line was doubled just two minutes later following another Hunt corner, this time from the other side of the pitch. **ANTHONY CHURCH** netted his first goal of the night with a header into the net from ten yards (2-0).

Church could easily added to his tally in the 22nd minute as Jamie Guy slipped the ball into space for the midfielder to run on to but Town centre back Tom Boxer made a saving tackle to concede another corner.

An uneventful period of play followed as the pace slackened and the Blues got a little sloppy. However three minutes before the interval Ryan Melaugh, Johnny Herd and Church were involved in an excellent move on the left that ended with Herd crossing low inside to **ANTHONY CHURCH** whose shot from 12 yards entered the net via a slight deflection off a Scholars' boot (3-0).

Just before the half-time whistle Joe Wright held on to a low long-range effort Alex Shepherd.

Half time: 3-0

Early on after the restart Wright dealt with another distance effort, this time from former Blue Ben Bowditch, and then a 25 yarder from striker Josh Hutchinson who also shot wide when well placed to score with twenty minutes left.

Substitute Spencer McCall was close with an angled low effort past the far post shortly after replacing Declan Hunt and the more the tie progressed the more it seemed that the Bishops would add another goal. Both McCall and Ryan Melaugh had shots saved by visiting keeper Mark Underwood whilst Josh Fagbohun wasn't far off target with a shot across the face of the goal.

McCall was involved in the last goal of the evening which came in the final minute of normal time. The substitute's corner on the right was met by **ANTHONY CHURCH** near the penalty spot and the skipper's flying side-foot volley thundered into the corner of the net (4-0).

There was still time before the end for Sheldon Sellears to hit the left upright following a surging run up-field.

Full time: 4-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Rio Bryan Edwards; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri (sub – Luke Milbourne 74 mins); George Allen; Phil Anderson; Sheldon Sellears; Anthony Church; Jamie Guy (sub - Josh Fagbohun 74 mins); Declan Hunt (sub – Spencer McCall 69 mins); Ryan Melaugh.

Unused substitutes: Jake Larkins and Jermaine Osei.

POTTERS BAR TOWN: Mark Underwood; Laurence Rispoli (sub – Matt Clifford 69 mins); Lee Close; Jack Friend; Tom Boxer; Ben Bowditch (sub – Lamar Simpson 73 mins); Evandro Delgado; Ashley Harrison-Barker (sub – Chris Doyle 65 mins); Josh Hutchinson; Alex Shepherd; James Ewington.

Unused substitutes: Conner Sansom and Frankie Lane.

Attendance: 137