

Tuesday 23rd September 2014

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2, ST. ALBANS CITY 0
(HERTS CHARITY CUP – SEMI FINAL)**

A goal in each half ensured that the Blues, the holders, progressed through to their fifth successive Charity Cup Final. They will meet either Royston Town or Hitchin Town in the Final at the County headquarters at Letchworth sometime next spring.

The victory was a fairly comfortable one although the visitors did strike the crossbar twice and had the upper hand in the closing twenty minutes when Stortford took their foot off the gas and defended deeper.

Both sides fielded strongish sides with Rod Stringer's squad lacking skipper Anthony Church whilst Phil Anderson partnered George Allen in defence and former Mansfield, Tamworth and Farnborough midfielder Curtis Shaw was a substitute and came on with twenty five minutes to go. Joe Tabiri skippered Stortford for the evening.

There had already been plenty of action before City's David Keenleyside struck the bar in the 9th minute with a 35 yard free-kick. Then shortly afterwards Rod Young broke on the right and his shot from an angle rebounded off keeper Mayson Tewkesbury's legs for a corner.

The Blues, attacking the Airport end, went ahead after fifteen minutes. A perfect deep cross from the left by Spencer McCall found **SHELDON SELLEARS** towards the back post and the midfielder drilled the ball low into the net (1-0).

The lead was almost doubled eight minutes later. This time a Rod Young cross from the left towards the far post caused confusion in the Saints ranks as Tewkesbury and his defence got themselves in a real muddle. George Sykes was more or less given possession of the ball and his cushioned side foot volley from an angle struck the inside of a post and somehow rebounded clear.

Keenleyside shot narrowly wide for City on the half hour but the Blues were on top in the period of play up to the break with Young, Ryan Melaugh and Johnny Herd all nearly adding to the score.

Half time: 1-0

The second and final goal of the night arrived four minutes after the restart. George Allen's long pass forward was taken up the right by

Ashley Miller who delivered the ball across the box for **ROD YOUNG** to tuck in at the far upright (2-0).

Stortford continued to have the edge during the middle passage of the second half although David Gregory was forced to make good saves from Loick Pires and David Keenleyside. The visitors then took the initiative in the later stages of the tie after both sides had made their maximum substitutions.

In the 82nd minute Saints skipper Lee Chappell rapped the bar with an attempt from distance but apart from that near miss the Blues held out comfortably to the final whistle.

Referee Mark Mellor had a quiet evening – not producing a card of any colour.

Full time: 2-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: David Gregory; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri; George Allen; Phil Anderson; Sheldon Sellaars (sub – Ryan Auger 58 mins); Spencer McCall (sub – Curtis Shaw 64 mins); Rod Young; George Sykes (sub - Mikel Suarez 74 mins); Ryan Melaugh.
Unused substitutes: Danny Fitzsimons and Joe Wright.

ST ALBANS CITY: Mayson Tewkesbury; John Kyriacou; Lee Chappell; Joe Watson (sub – Jack Green 63 mins); James Kaloczi; Darren Locke (sub – David Longe-King 63 mins); Danny Green; Charlie Gorman; John Frendo (sub – Harry Tew-Robinson 63 mins); David Keenleyside; Loick Pires.

Unused substitutes: None

Attendance: 112