

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3 CRYSTAL PALACE under 21s 4  
(FRIENDLY)**

A very open entertaining match at the ProKit UK Stadium finished with the Blues losing out by the odd goal in seven to the Palace under 21 side.

Rod Stringer's squad for the match didn't include George Allen who broke a toe five days earlier in the victory at Farnborough, Anthony Church, Sheldon Sellears or Scott Shulton. Amongst those on the bench who saw some action late on were Donovan Simmonds who had a couple of games for the Blues at the start of the 2012-2013 campaign and Rhys Henry scorer of a number of goals for the Stortford under 21 team this season.

Stortford started very brightly and took the lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> minute after Spencer McCall and George Sykes set up **RYAN MELAUGH** to find the net from ten yards (1-0). However the visitors were level five minutes later when Phil Anderson conceded a penalty and **SULLAY KAIKAI** scored from the spot (1-1).

Within a minute the Blues were ahead again with Ryan Auger's pacy free-kick from the left flank flying into the net via **PHIL ANDERSON's** glancing header (2-1).

Palace equalised again in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute also from a free-kick with **KAIKAI's** direct effort going in past David Gregory at the near post (2-2). Then he almost claimed a hat-trick before half-time with a shot that finished in the side-netting.

Half time: 2-2

The visitors took the lead for the first time four minutes after the interval when the Blues defence allowed substitute **JAKE GRAY** to advance to the edge of the box and blast a low drive into the net via a deflection (2-3).

**GEORGE SYKES** then levelled matters again five minutes later after a run up the left flank and a low effort that went inside the near upright (3-3). With twenty minutes remaining a corner from the right taken by Ryan Melaugh was deflected on to the cross-bar but the South Londoners clinched the win with four minutes remaining as **GRAY** struck again converting a right wing cross with a first time shot that entered the net off the inside of Joe Wright's left hand post.

Full time: 3-4

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: David Gregory (sub – Joe Wright 60 mins); Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri; Phil Anderson; Danny Fitzsimons (sub – Kurtis Pykes 72 mins); Ryan Auger; Spencer McCall (sub – Donovan Simmonds 58 mins); Rod Young (sub – Mikel Suarez 58 mins); George Sykes (sub – Frankie Merrifield 65 mins); Ryan Melaugh (sub – Rhys Henry 77 mins).

Unused substitutes: None

Attendance 146