

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**TOOTING & MITCHAM UNITED 3, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1  
(FA CHALLENGE CUP – 2<sup>ND</sup> QUALIFYING ROUND REPLAY)**

After the heights reached and plaudits received following last season's FA Cup success Stortford plumbed the depths as they were on the wrong end of an upset following this midweek replay defeat at the KNK Stadium. Johnny Herd on his 100<sup>th</sup> appearance gave the Blues the lead in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute but the Ryman League Division 1 South side quickly equalised and from that point Stortford struggled to get any momentum in their play. The hosts, who allowed the Blues little time on the ball throughout the replay, made the most of three errors at the back and went on to deserve their passage into the next round.

The Blues, with the same squad as in the first match, started the brighter of the two sides. A long throw in the third minute from Johnny Herd into the box was punched away by keeper Harvey Cheadle to Rod Young who drove wide of the target from 15 yards and then when the young striker was fouled outside the box Ryan Augers' free-kick found the side-netting.

In the next attack in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute, though, Stortford took the lead. Danny Fitzsimons' long pass out to the left was collected by Auger and he combined with skipper Anthony Church to set up **JOHNNY HERD** for a run to just inside the area before the defender beat the stopper with a shot past his dive into the far corner of the net (0-1).

Stortford's lead lasted only two minutes. There should have been no danger when a long hopeful ball dropped midway inside the Stortford half. However, Danny Fitzsimons trying to send the ball back upfield only succeeded in flicking it into the path of **HOWARD NEWTON** who sprinted to the edge of the area and smashed a fine shot between David Gregory's dive and the keeper's right hand upright (1-1).

Although Sheldon Sellars went close in Stortford's next attack the Terrors were on the ascendancy and Dan Summers had two efforts held by David Gregory whilst a 35 yard free-kick from Jordan Cheadle wasn't far off the mark.

Both sides had shouts for penalties around the midway point of the half and then United went ahead in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute. The goal resulted from a mix-up between Johnny Herd and Ashley Miller when Herd's throw on the right some fifteen yards inside the Tooting half led to hesitation between the two of them. Sol Pinnock nipped in to seize possession and then slipped the ball forward for **DAN SUMMERS** to run clear and beat

Gregory. Although the loan keeper from Crystal Palace half stopped the shot the ball deflected off his body into the net (2-1).

This set back put Stortford on the ropes for a while and Pinnock sent a half chance wide in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute and there was a narrow escape six minutes later with Johnny Herd making a timely intervention at the back post when Jordan Clarke threatened to increase the hosts' lead after good work on the left by Howard Newton.

Just before the break the Blues came back into the picture with Sheldon Sellaars having a deflected shot go wide and Rod Young striking a first time attempt close past the post.

Half time: 2-1

The first fifteen to twenty minutes after the restart saw the Blues have the better of the exchanges. Ashley Miller headed over following a Johnny Herd long throw and when an angled shot from Rod Young deflected past the far post for a corner this led to three successive flag-kicks.

Just past the hour Ryan Auger and Anthony Church linked down the middle to set up Mikel Suarez for a chance but keeper Harvey Cheadle made an excellent save to divert the ball away for another corner.

George Allen was close with an effort over the bar but the Blues fell further behind in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute. The Blues were caught on the break but Allen should have dealt better with a loose ball but allowed **SOL PINNOCK** to get in front of him and get control of the ball. The Tooting striker still had a lot to do approaching the edge of the box but managed to beat Gregory with a well placed shot inside an upright (3-1).

Rod Stringer brought on Spencer McCall and George Sykes in place of Joe Tabiri and Rod Young and in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute Stortford nearly reduced the arrears when a Sheldon Sellaars free-kick was met by Mikel Suarez at the near post but the Spaniard's shot was saved by keeper Cheadle.

David Gegory was in action shortly afterwards at the other end when he had to block well from Pinnock who had broken clear. Suarez headed over the bar from a Ryan Auger cross from the right and with the tie entering the final ten minutes Sheldon Sellaars had a shot blocked following a run at goal. Ashley Miller also just failed to intercept a sliced clearance out of the South Londoners' box.

Two minutes from the end of normal time the hosts posed more danger with two of their substitutes involved – Billy Marshall's cross from the right being sent rebounding off the bar by Craig Watkins.

There were four minutes of added time and in the third of them the last chance for Stortford to reduce the arrears came and went when substitute Ryan Melaugh centred from the left and Mikel Suarez's shot cleared the bar by six inches.

The Blues' Ryan Auger and Ashley Miller were booked by Referee Andrew Laver along with Tooting's Jordan Clarke during the match.

Full time: 3-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: David Gregory; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd (sub – Ryan Melaugh 77 mins); Joe Tabiri (sub – Spencer McCall 69 mins); Danny Fitzsimons; George Allen; Ryan Auger; Anthony Church; Mikel Suarez; Rod Young (sub – George Sykes 70 mins); Sheldon Sellaars.

Unused substitutes: Phil Anderson, Harry Baker and Joe Wright

TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD: Harvey Cheadle; Tom Jelley; Nathan Gordon; David Graves; Jordan Cheadle; Bashiri Alimi; Jordan Clarke (sub – Craig Watkins 81 mins); Francis Quarm; Dan Summers (sub – Harry Knock 87 mins); Sol Pinnock (sub – Billy Marshall 81 mins); Howard Newton.

Unused substitutes: Colin Hartburn, Tinashe Nkoma, Liam Wright and Robert Aspinall.

Attendance 253