

Wednesday 25th March 2015

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0, BRENTWOOD TOWN 0
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – ESSEX/HERTS
DIVISION)

Tim Moylette's team put in their best performance of the season as they held Brentwood Town to a draw. The Essex side went into the match with a 100% win record in the division having won all thirteen of their previous league games. The Champions-elect had the slight edge in midfield through the majority of the contest but although they hit the woodwork twice it was the Blues who finished the ninety minutes the stronger.

Stortford, who were without the influential Ben Smith in midfield began well but in their first attack Brentwood went close to opening the scoring in the 4th minute as a quickly taken free-kick found Connor Hogan in behind the Blues defence but keeper Cameron Robson came quickly off his line to block well. Shortly afterwards Town striker Yeshaya Lomoley's deflected effort was pushed away for a corner by Robson.

The Blues' first real threat on goal came in the 19th minute when Mason Naylor's free-kick from the left dropped to Bryn Thorpe in space but the defender drove the ball wide of the target from 12 yards. Two minutes later Robson was in action again saving a free-kick from Charlie Portway.

Up to the interval there was little between the two sides. In the 37th minute a Blues' attack featuring Jack Isherwood and Aaron Thomas set up Alex Warman coming in from the right but his low angled attempt from 15 yards flew past the far upright. A few minutes later at the other end Brentwood skipper Liam Smith's pass found Jess Collier in the box and his first time volley rebounded off the bar.

Then sixty seconds later Isherwood was allowed a free header following another Naylor free-kick but he sent it two foot over the top.

Half time: 0-0

The visitors struck the woodwork again four minutes after the restart. This time the Blues defence allowed a throw in on the left to bounce through to Portway and his shot from an acute angle hit high up on the near upright.

However, Stortford now settled into a confident and strong tempo and after Alex Warman struck a first timer wide at the far post after being supplied with a crossfield pass by Lukeman Agbomabiwon a few minutes

later Jack Isherwood shot narrowly over the bar following a good run and cut back from Aaron Thomas on the left flank.

With the match entering its closing stages Stortford came their closest to scoring in the 78th minute. Alex Warman split the opposing defence with a pass through the middle for Aaron Thomas to fasten on to but Town stopper James Alborough pulled off an excellent block to deny Thomas as he tried to go round him. Bryn Thorpe headed just wide from the resultant corner.

Another Mason Naylor corner caused from problems in the visitors' defence but in the 83rd minute when Alborough punted a long clearance upfield Yeshaya Lomoley broke in space on the right. Fortunately Cameron Robson came to the rescue with a fine save by holding the striker's angled shot low down at his near post.

The pressure in the final minutes came from Stortford. Isherwood, Naylor and Thomas were all involved in an attack that ended with the latter's shot saved by Alborough. From the resultant Naylor flag kick taken on the left Alex Warman saw his header held under the bar by Alborough.

This was the Blues' first draw of the campaign.

Full time: 0-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Cameron Robson; Rene Leacock; Louis Monk; Lukeman Agbomabiwon (sub – Ben James 86 mins); Alex Askri; Bryn Thorpe; Mason Naylor; Danny Palmer; Jack Isherwood; Aaron Thomas; Alex Warman.

Unused substitutes: Callum Lynskey and Stephen Robinson.