

ROMFORD REDS 1, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 4
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

Tim Moylette's Academy side scored three goals in the last 14 minutes of this contest to beat bottom-of-the-table Romford (Reds) and record their first away win of the campaign.

It was a scrappy start to the match in windy conditions but the Blues took the lead in the 21st minute. Jordan Handscomb was fouled just outside the area and CALLUM O'BRIEN flighted a perfect free-kick under the bar and inside the far post (0-1).

Handscomb's low effort five minutes later was saved by Romford stopper Alex Shuffle but the hosts equalised on the half-hour. Striker HARRISON BARRETT went on a run down the middle and finished with a shot past Stephen Robinson (1-1).

Ten minutes before the break Handscomb had a header headed off the line following an O'Brien corner from the right and shortly afterwards Aaron Thomas was wide after fastening on to a Danny Palmer through ball. Handscomb was close again with a volley just wide but a minute from the interval Robinson was almost caught out by a long range shot from the hosts that was caught in the wind and drifted inches past an upright.

Half time: 1-1

On the restart it was almost one-way traffic for Stortford as they had the benefit of the slope. In the early minutes of the half Aaron Thomas shot just over the bar whilst Handscomb scuffed his shot from close range straight to the keeper following a cross from Mason Naylor. Then in the 55th minute keeper Shuffle saved from Danny Palmer after a good move.

Handscomb missed out with a far post header when George Bartlam crossed from the left and skipper Bryn Thorpe saw his free-kick saved by the keeper. Midway through the half Palmer crossed from the left and Handscomb's shot on the turn from 15 yards struck the crossbar. The pressure continued with Stortford having a couple of appeals for penalties turned down and Palmer tried to force the ball in after one attack but it was blocked near the line.

Finally, in the 76th minute, Stortford went ahead. A long clearance upfield from Stephen Robinson was fastened on to by AARON THOMAS on the left flank and cutting into the box he was fouled by defender Tom Matthews and Thomas, himself, netted from the penalty spot (1-2).

The goal margin was widened in the 84th minute as Aaron Thomas' through ball found JORDAN HANDSCOMB running through the middle and the striker beat the keeper with a low effort (1-3). The fourth and last goal came a minute from the end of normal time with Ross Gill and Danny Palmer providing the assists for AARON THOMAS to break clear and slip the ball past Shuffle (1-4).

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Stephen Robinson; Lewis McDonald; Callum O'Brien; Danny Palmer; Ross Gill; Bryn Thorpe; George Bartlam (Joe Senior 77); Jack Thomas; Jordan Handscomb (Jordan King 84); Aaron Thomas; Mason Naylor (Sam Brown 82).
Unused substitutes: None.