

HISTON 3, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

Stortford were unlucky not to take at least a point from their trip to the Glass World Stadium. Trailing 3-1 at the interval to second-in-the-table Histon, Tim Moylette's team pulled a goal back within five minutes of the restart and then, despite having the better of the remainder of the contest, they were unable to score again. In the final forty minutes they missed a couple of clear-cut chances, had what seemed a perfectly good goal over-ruled for offside and missed a penalty.

At the start it was the hosts who had the momentum and they took the lead in the 12th minute. The Blues failed to deal with a quickly taken free-kick and when the ball was played forward down the middle striker MATT ALLAN gained possession and drove low past keeper Tom Beckett's dive into the bottom corner from just inside the box (1-0).

The Stutes' lead was short-lived however as Stortford were back on level terms within two minutes. BEN SMITH swooped on a wayward pass from Alex Clarke and took the ball on before shooting past keeper Will Gilbert from 15 yards (1-1). Shortly afterwards Smith had a chance to put the Blues ahead as he collected a pass on the left from Alex Rogers and cut inside past a couple of challenges but from a similar position to where he had scored he saw his shot go narrowly wide of the far upright.

Histon retook the lead in the 27th minute. Jos Gwynne's pass found MATT ALLAN who worked his way into a position to shoot past Beckett to score his second goal (2-1). Five minutes before the break Allan finished a move up the left flank with an angled shot past Beckett but Callum O'Brien did well to clear the ball off the line at the expense of a corner. Allan's flag-kick was only half cleared and Lewis Clayton's return into the box was collected by ALEX CLARKE to fire into the net (3-1).

Half time: 3-1

Playing some attractive flowing football throughout the second half, Stortford reduced the arrears within five minutes of the restart. A long ball forward from Alex Rogers was fastened on to by Ben Smith who slipped it out to the right where JOE SENIOR advanced to drive a low angled shot past Gilbert into the far corner of the net (3-2).

A few minutes later Tom Beckett saved a volley from Allan but the Blues were the dominant side now and Senior finished off a move with Mason Naylor and Ben Smith with a shot saved by Gilbert. Just after the hour, substitute George Bartlam delivered a through pass for Jordan Handscomb to chase but Gilbert just managed to grab the ball at the striker's feet inches inside the box.

Fifteen minutes from the end a cross into the box from the right by Alex Warman was eventually bundled into the net by Ben Smith. However, the goal was disallowed for offside even though there was defender standing on the goal-line. Then, two minutes later when Warman crossed again into the middle, Handscomb's shot on the turn was handled by a defender for a penalty. Unfortunately Alex Warman sent the spot-kick over the bar. The hosts mustered few attacks late on and from one of these Tom Beckett held a lofted shot from Gwynne. It was the Blues who were on top though and in the 86th minute a shot from Handscomb following a good run and cross on the left from Ben Smith was turned round the near post by the stopper Gilbert. Then in the final minute of normal time substitute Aaron Thomas broke on the right and fellow sub Ted Dean, meeting the cross, saw his effort hit the advancing Gilbert from short range and rebound out to Jordan Handscomb who cracked the loose ball over the bar.

Tom Beckett got down to save low from Histon's Aysa Ourtilbour at the other end and then finally in added time Callum O'Brien's long ball down the middle found Jordan Handscomb but again the striker's shot cleared the bar.

Bishop's Stortford: Tom Beckett; Alex Warman; Callum O'Brien; Jack Thomas; Ross Gill; Bryn Thorpe; Alex Rogers (George Bartlam 59 (Ted Dean 83)); Mason Naylor (Aaron Thomas 78); Jordan Handscomb; Ben Smith; Joe Senior (Sam Brown 71).
Unused substitute: Jordan King.