

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2, BOREHAM WOOD 2 (after extra time)

Boreham Wood won 6-5 on penalties

(HERTS SENIOR CUP – SEMI-FINAL)

Stortford's loss in this Semi-Final tie at the ProKit UK Stadium was a repeat of the 2013/2014 county cup final that also saw them beaten by Boreham Wood on penalties. Early in this contest the Blues had established a two goal lead only to see Wood play their best football in the tie to level by the midway point of the tie. Extra time produced a couple of near misses at both ends but no goals and in the penalty shoot-out Elliott Buchanan and Wood skipper Callum Reynolds missed the opening spot-kicks. All the penalties then found the net until Kenzer Lee's was saved by the visitors' James Russell to decide the tie.



Rod Stringer shuffled his pack slightly giving a first start to Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson whilst Tom Lovelock returned in goal. Anthony Church was on the bench with Robbie Willmott having the captain's armband.



The Blues started well against a side struggling in the Vanarama National League. Wood, certainly in the early stages, seemed to lack confidence and Stortford took advantage to open the scoring in the

seventh minute. A cross from the left by Johnny Herd was deflected upwards and when keeper James Russell came out to fist the ball away he only succeeded in pushing it into the back of ELLIOTT BUCHANAN and it rebounded into the net (1-0). Ten minutes later a Willmott free-kick found George Allen at the far post but the defender's shot lacked power and was straight at Russell. Stortford continued to have the better of the exchanges and increased their lead in the 34th minute. George Allen did well to scrap and win the ball in midfield and it went via Elliott Buchanan to FRANKIE MERRIFIELD who worked himself into some space to the left of the Wood goal to fire an angled low effort past his marker and keeper Russell (2-0)



Half-time: 2-0

Wood came out on the restart looking more like a National League side and took the game to the Blues. They reduced the arrears in the 54th minute when CONOR CLIFFORD collected the ball 30 yards out and proceeded to hammer it into the top corner of the net high to the left of Tom Lovelock (2-1). The scores were then level in the 65th minute as a cross from the right by Clovis Kamdjo reached DANNY HAYNES past the back post and after Lovelock initially blocked the first angled effort at the post Haynes lashed the ball inside the opposite upright (2-2).

Rod Stringer made a double substitution in the 74th minute with Josh Ekim and Frankie Merrifield being replaced by Anthony Church and Corby Moore. Both sides could have clinched a winner as the time ran down towards the end of normal time. Kenzer Lee made a timely tackle to stop Harry

White as the substitute cut in towards goal whilst at the other end a Willmott free-kick struck the defensive wall and spun out to Anthony Church whose drive was saved by the diving Russell. Before the whistle at the end of the ninety minutes Lovelock came off his goal-line quickly to deny Billy Clifford just inside the box and an Elliott Buchanan free-kick was deflected narrowly wide.



Full-time: 2-2

As it had been from the first whistle the match continued at a fast pace. Stortford had the edge in the first period of extra time and a rising shot from Robbie Willmott in the 92nd minute was not far off target. For the visitors Delano Sam-Yorke was close with an angled shot past the far post. Into the second period of extra time Church almost scored for the Blues with his lofted shot from the far side of the box just drifting past the far post and keeper Russell well beaten. However, with time running out, Tom Lovelock half-saved a shot from the right by Sam-Yorke and George Allen cleared for a corner at the near post. Then, with five minutes to go, Sam-Yorke missed a chance when substitute Junior Morias laid a through ball for the striker but his weak effort was easily taken by Lovelock and in the last action before the penalty shoot-out the Blues keeper did well to stretch and save a header from Clovis Kamdjo after Billy Clifford had crossed into the area.

The sequence of the penalties action taken at the Airport end was as follows:-

Callum Reynolds (Boreham Wood) – shot wide (0-0)
 Elliott Buchanan (Stortford) – shot saved by Russell (0-0)
 Conor Clifford (Boreham Wood) – scores (0-1)
 Robbie Willmott (Stortford) – scores (1-1)
 Billy Clifford (Boreham Wood) – scores (1-2)
 Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson (Stortford) – scores (2-2)
 Harry White (Boreham Wood) – scores (2-3)
 Corby Moore (Stortford) – scores via inside of post (3-3)
 Junior Morias (Boreham Wood) – scores (3-4)
 Johnny Herd (Stortford) – scores (4-4)
 Delano Sam-Yorke (Boreham Wood) – scores (4-5)
 Anthony Church (Stortford) – scores (5-5)
 Joe Devera (Boreham Wood) – scores (5-6)
 Kenzer Lee (Stortford) – shot saved by Russell

TEAM DETAILS AND MATCH DETAILS:-

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Alli Abdullahi; Kenzer Lee; George Allen; Robbie Willmott; Josh Ekim (Anthony Church 74); Elliott Buchanan; Frankie Merrifield (Corby Moore 74); Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson. Unused substitutes: Byron Lawrence, Luke Milbourne and Craig King.

BOREHAM WOOD: James Russell; Joe Devera; David Stephens; Callum Reynolds; Ricky Shakes; Clovis Kamdjo; Conor Clifford; Billy Clifford; Delano Sam-Yorke; Jamie Lucas (Harry White 80); Danny Haynes (Junior Morias 102). Unused subs: Danny Woodards, Scott Doe and Paul White.

Goalscorers: Bishop's Stortford – Elliott Buchanan 7 and Frankie Merrifield 34

Boreham Wood – Conor Clifford 54 and Danny Haynes 65

Referee: Mr David Rock

Attendance: 121
