

# Blues 1 Cheshunt 2

Blues' hopes of a seventh straight Herts Charity Cup final were ended as they lost 2-1 at home against Cheshunt, on Tuesday evening.



Shomari Barnwell celebrated the renewal of his loan period from Dagenham & Redbridge with a 22nd minute goal, but that was as good as it got for the hosts before strikes from Tom Bruno and Jason Hallett gave the Ambers a trip to Letchworth.



Luke Callander and Emmanuel Adebawale returned to the starting line-up as Blues' bosses Steve Smith and Mark Hawkes fielded a strong starting line-up but it was a disappointing night for the home side as they suffered only their second defeat in 20 ties in the competition.

Barnwell went close after a good ball from Callander while at the other end Harry Voss saved well from Hallett, and the same Cheshunt player shot wide from the edge of the area shortly after. Blues took the lead midway through the first half when he met Alex Stephenson's cross and sent a sweet volley past Michael Gooch.

Hallett was again denied as Harry Darling produced a fine tackle before Harry Hickford had the chance to double the lead when he latched on to a Paul Rogers cross, but the visitors scrambled the ball away.



Stortford skipper Phil Walsh also went close but the visitors levelled four minutes before the break when Voss failed to hold a free-kick from Bruno. Rogers and Callendar both had good chances to restore Blues' lead as the home side started the second half well but the Ambers slowing took control and it took an excellent save from Voss to deny Liam Hope in the 70th minute as he tipped a piledriver around a post.



Hallett had tormented the hosts' defence all night, and it came with 15 minutes remaining when he cut into the box on the left and hit a screamer into the far corner for what proved to be the winner. A goalmouth scramble saw a Cheshunt defender hit his own crossbar a minute later and substitute Correy Davidson fired just wide, but as the pitch increasing became a swamp, the Ambers held to reach the final.

Blues: H Voss, P Rodgers, A Stephenson (S Ford 82), E Adebawale, P Walsh, H Darling, H Hickford, M Richens, L Callander (G Cundle 79), S Barnwell (C Davidson 81), A Greene. Unused sub: C Akurang. Attendance: 103.

