

# BISHOP'S STORTFORD 4, HANWELL TOWN 0

## (THE BUILDBASE FA TROPHY 1<sup>ST</sup> QUALIFYING ROUND)

After suffering some disappointing results in the FA Trophy in recent seasons the Blues safely progressed to the next round aided by three late goals.



There was little to get excited about in the match particularly in the first half when both sides struggled to string passes together and the entertainment value was low. Stortford however did what they had to do whilst Kevin Watson blooded another youngster into first team action with defender Marcus Crowther – only 16 in July – coming on for his debut in the final minutes.



The Blues were without the on-loan Tyrique Hyde who was not allowed to play in the tie by his parent club Dagenham & Redbridge.

The early stages saw Stortford have the early possession and in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute the Geordies keeper Xavi Comes dived to palm away a low cross from George Casey and a little later the stopper grabbed and held on to a near post effort from Christian Owusu after Dipo Akinyemi crossed in from the left. The nearest the west Londoners came to scoring early on

was in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute as Glen Yala released Callum Wright on the right to cut in towards goal but the striker delayed his shot and when he did aim at goal the attempt lacked power and McCarthy gathered easily.



Christian Owusu did have the ball in the net but the goal was disallowed as before Akinyemi had crossed the ball it had gone over the by-line. Three minutes from the break Akinyemi shot into the side-netting before, in the 44<sup>th</sup> minute, Stortford took the lead with a goal in keeping with the match. Tyler McCarthy punted a long ball deep into the Hanwell half and central defender Calum Duffey misjudged his header to send the ball over Comes' head and under the bar for an own goal.

Duffy nearly atoned a minute later as his near post header from Callum Wright's cross from the right rebounded off of McCarthy's chest.

The visitors began the second period brightly with ex Blues player Peter Dean narrowly wide early on and two corners on the left from Charlie Mitchell causing problems to McCarthy and his defence. The second corner hit the near post directly and the rebound was struck goalwards by Tom Duffy but McCarthy was well positioned to hold the shot.

Christian Owusu missed a chance when shooting over the bar from close range following an Akinyemi cross and he later had an effort blocked after a good run down the left flank by Jason Williams.

The Blues finally doubled their lead in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute. A fine ball out of defence from Freddy Moncur sent Akinyemi racing away on the left

and after cutting in towards the Hanwell goal the striker found the net with a low shot that deflected over the line from the legs of keeper Comes.

A header from Williams was just over the target and with the visiting defence tiring and beginning to open up Stortford scored again in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute. Another good run and cross from Akinyemi found Ryan Richefond at the near post and the midfielder managed to somehow turn and squeeze the ball low past Comes and over the line for his first Blues goal.



The Stortford boss then took the opportunity to bring on three young substitutes, Jack Thomas, Callum Taylor and Marcus Crowther.

Akinyemi shot over the bar from a Moncur cross while a Taylor goalbound drive was blocked before leading marksman Williams then netted the last goal of the afternoon in the second minute of added time collecting Jordan Westcott's through pass down the middle and rounding the keeper to shoot into an empty net.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Darren Foxley; Ryan Richefond (Jack Thomas 85); Marvel Ekpiteta (Marcus Crowther 88); Joe Robinson; Freddy Moncur; Jordan Westcott; Jason Williams; Christian Owusu (Callum Taylor 85); Dipo Akinyemi.

Unused substitute: Alex Rogers.

HANWELL TOWN: Xavi Comes; Glen Yala; Charlie Mitchell; Tom Duffy; Calum Duffy; Oliver Duffy; Georges Ehui (Ruddock Yala 74); Jesse Kewley-Graham (Daniel Pritchard 88); Peter Dean; Callum Wright; David Sangola. Unused substitutes: Tom Hunt, Nick Turner, and Rijsheet Lal.

Referee: Thomas Hancock

Attendance: 205

