

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0 HITCHIN TOWN 1



This was a much-improved performance by Adam Flint's squad particularly in the second half but it was all in vain as the Canaries narrowly progressed in the Herts Charity Cup through a penalty after the break.

It was a story of two spot-kicks as Lucas Kirkpatrick converted his whilst a few minutes earlier in the half Jamie Cureton was denied by Michael Johnson's save from his penalty.



The Blues' boss again had several players missing, including Lewis Dark, Joe Robinson and Jordan Wescott but included in his line-up triallists defender Tyler Hayes from Braintree, defender Toib Adeyemi from Barking and striker Toyosi Olusanya who has played EFL 2 football at AFC Wimbledon and finished last season at Gosport Borough.

Stortford began promisingly and visiting keeper Johnson just grabbed the ball inside the edge of his box as Olusanya tried to get on the end of a through pass down the middle in the eight minute.Â Â

However, some sloppy passing by the Blues was again a feature in the first half but there was little difference between the two sides possession wise.



Just after the half-hour, Isaac Galliford tried a shot from distance that Calum Kitscha held at the second attempt and three minutes later a first-timer from Alfie Mason was just wide of the near angle of the Hitchin goal.

The tie opened up at the start of the second half and the introduction of substitute Ryan Charles seemed to make a big difference with Stortford looking very positive.

The visitors were also creating chances with Calum Kitscha making several excellent saves after the break including one in the 48th minute Elliot Bailey and then a superb tip over the bar from the same player soon afterwards. Then, in the 51st minute, Stortford had the chance to take the lead. Good work by Alfie Mason on the left led to Olusanya bursting into the box and to go down to a challenge from a defender. Jamie Cureton stepped up to take the penalty but his spot-kick was blocked by Johnson and then the striker was ruled to have fouled the keeper when netting the rebound.



Stortford were having the better of the play at this stage with Ryan Charles going close after cutting in from the right and Cureton's acute angled shot drew a fine save from Johnson at the near upright in the 59th minute. However, in the 64th minute, after helping to break-up a Blues attack, Macsen Fraser broke

through on a solo run from inside his own half and when he stormed into the box he went down as three Stortford defenders converged on him and referee Lee Grimsey awarded a penalty that Lucas Kirkpatrick drilled past Kitscha giving the keeper no chance. Stortford had the upper hand for the remainder of the match, with Ryan Charles very prominent, and Cureton was close with an effort from the edge of the box but they were unable to take the tie to a penalty shoot-out.



STORTFORD: Calum Kitscha; Johnville Renee; Tyler Hayes; Elliott Ronto; Toib Adeyemi; Sam Robbins; Shabazz Omofe (Ryan Charles 46); Jack Thomas; Jamie Cureton; Toyosi Olusanya (Chi Osadebe 72); Alfie Mason.
 Unused substitutes: Freddie Oakman, Max Brassington and Bobby Mason.
HITCHIN TOWN: Michael Johnson; Macsen Fraser; Toby Syme; Matt Spring (Danny Talbot 46); Dan Webb; Lewis Ferrell; Jack Green (Trey Charles 72); Lucas Kirkpatrick; Ezra Forde (Charlie Smith 46); Elliot Bailey; Isaac Galliford.
 Unused substitutes: Scott Belgrove and Michael King.
 Attendance: 168

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1
 DORKING WANDERERS 1
 (BOSTIK LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION)**

JAMIE Cureton's second half goal saw Blues open their Bostik League campaign by holding big-spending Wanderers to a draw.



This first ever meeting of these two sides saw the points shared with the visitors the better side before the break while the Blues having struggled then improved greatly after the interval.



Adam Flint's men made a poor start and were a goal down in the third minute as Jason Prior collected Tom Tolfrey's cross in space and fired low past Calum Kitscha. Although Chi Osadebe forced a save from Slavomir Huk soon afterwards the Wanderers were calling the tune with Kitscha denying Prior twice around the midway point of the half and Matt Briggs should have scored when well placed.



It was a different story on the restart as the Blues adopted a more positive approach with Ryan Charles very prominent in Stortford attacks.

Osedebe and Cureton had efforts deflected away for corners and the hosts equalised in the 71st minute. A long ball up the left from skipper Lewis Dark found Cureton moving sharply behind the Wanderers defence and flick the ball neatly over Huk from an acute angle.



Charles went close with a volley and at the other end a deflected shot from Prior ended on the roof of the net. Then with ten minutes left Kitscha made a great stop with his leg to keep out Ben Dyett's shot following a corner.

Stortford finished the contest with only ten men when substitute Jack Thomas was shown a red card in added time kicking out at Chris Boulter after the visiting defender appeared to tug his hair.



STORTFORD: Calum Kitscha; Johnville Renee; Chris Gregan; Lewis Dark; Damien Green; Sam Robbins; Alfie Mason (Jack Thomas 81); Elliott Ronto (Shabazz Omofe 90); Jamie Cureton; Chi Osadebe (Jordan Wescott 71); Ryan Charles. Unused substitutes: Max Brassington and Freddie Oakman.

DORKING WANDERERS: Slavomir Huk; Ben Dyett; Sami El-Abd; Chris Boulter; Dan Pearse; Niall McManus (Jerome Beckles 75); Kieron

Lavery (Guiseppe Sole 81); Matt Briggs; Jason Prior; Tom Tolfrey (Jerry O'Sullivan 62); Tom Richards

Unused substitutes: Josh Gallagher and Teddy Ralph.

Referee: David Harrison. Attendance: 274