

Harlow Town 1 Bishop's Stortford 3

BLUES took the bragging rights in the first competitive derby in 17 years against Harlow Town as goals from Olutoyosi Olusanya, Jake Cass and Alfie Mason gave them their opening win of the season.

Adam Flint's team were in dominant form in front of a 725 crowd on Monday, as they took all three points and sent their old rivals to the bottom of the table.

The introduction of Cass into the team after missing all of pre-season and the opening league games due to injury, and the big striker has already netted in twice to give Blues four points over the bank holiday weekend.

Jamie Cureton returned to the line-up after missing Saturday's draw against Leatherhead, and the veteran striker was one of several Blues' players to go close in the opening stages, with Cass, Johnville Renee and Jordan Westcott also having chances.



Sylas Gordon had Harlow's first chance, but it was home keeper Josh Bexon who was busiest of the two goalies, and with two minutes of the first half remaining they made the breakthrough.

Olusanya capitalised on Gradi Milenge's defensive error on the halfway line before racing through and firing past Bexon into the bottom corner with the home keeper only able to get a touch on the ball.

Cass could have doubled the lead before the break, seeing a shot go over, and Cureton went close three minutes into the second half.

Callum Kitscha kept his side ahead with a good save from JJ Da Cruz before Blues doubled their lead in the 56th minute.



Renee ran through the home defence and found Cass who expertly created space before shooting high into the net.

Gordon saw shot cannon off the bar on the hour mark, but three minutes later the game was effectively over as Cass and Olusanya combined well as a corner, with Mason shooting into the bottom corner.



Westcott could have put the game beyond all doubt but was denied by Bexon, while Kitscha did well to keep out what would have been a fairly spectacular own goal from Toib Adeyemi at the other end.

As the home fans started to trickle out, they were given a crumb of consolation two minutes before the end as substitute Green fouled Mason in the box, but although Charlie Edwards converted the spot-kick there was nothing to stop Flint's side picking up the first win of his managerial career in Stortford.



Blues: C Kitscha, J Renee (E Ronto 90), C Gregan, L Dark, S Robins, T Adeyemi, A Mason, J Westcott, J Cureton, J Cass (C Osadebe 66), O Olusanya (D Green 70. Unused subs: M Brassington, I Nkosi



BLUES 0 0 FOLKESTONE INVICTA 1

A DOMINANT performance from the visitors saw Folkestone leave the ProKit UK Stadium with all three points.

On their first ever trip to Stortford the visitors were fully deserved of their victory although the only difference in the score-line was Kane Rowland's eight minute goal.

The Kent side seemed much quicker, won the second ball and played with much more cohesion than the Blues who fell well below the standard they had set themselves at Harlow five days earlier.

Adam Flint's squad showed a couple of changes. Lewis Dark was absent at a wedding and his replacement in the starting line-up was new signing Jordan Lawal.



Another new signing, Lance Akins was on the bench but made his debut coming on for Toib Adeyemi in the latter part of the first half.

Toyosi Olusanya with a low shot saved by Folkestone keeper Tim Roberts and Invicta's Johan Ter Horst having the ball held at his feet by Calum Kitscha had both gone close before Rowland put Invicta ahead. He robbed Jordan Westcott at the angle of the box and advanced to smash a fierce shot wide of Calum Kitscha inside the far upright.



Ter Horst and Kieron McCann nearly extended the lead in the next few minutes but Tim Roberts rescued the Kent side in the 13th minute tipping a Jamie Cureton header over the bar after Adeyemi had nodded a Chris Gregan free-kick across the box.

Roberts blocked out a Jake Cass low effort with his legs in the 23rd minute but with the Blues defence making errors and looking vulnerable every time Invicta attacked it looked as if the visitors would add to the score.

Josh Vincent with a header just over the target from a Ronnie Dolan corner was close in the 29th minute and then an Alfie Paxman free-kick

was tipped over the top by Kitscha on the half hour.

Folkestone continued to call the tune after the break although Roberts saved well from a Cass free-kick seven minutes after the restart and then parried away a drive from substitute Ryan Charles.

Stortford pushed forward in the final 20 minutes, their best period of the game, but they created little in front of goal although when substitutes Chi Osadebe and Charles combined on the left in the 78th minute it looked as though something positive might materialise but the final pass into the danger area was not precise and Cass was unable to get his shot at goal away.



Charles fired a fierce diagonal drive past the far post in the 81st minute and Cureton had an effort from the edge of the box blocked but Invicta substitute Ian Draycott missed a chance to double the lead in the 90th minute when he shot over the bar when through on the right-hand side of the box.

In all there were eight bookings during the contest with referee Conor Farrell showing yellow cards to five Stortford players.

STORTFORD: Calum Kitscha; Johnville Renee; Chris Gregan; Jordan Lawal; Sam Robbins; Toib Adeyemi (Lance Akins 32); Alfie Mason (Ryan Charles 46); Jordan Wescott; Jamie Cureton; Jake Cass; Toyosi Olusanya (Chi Osadebe 77).
Unused substitutes: Elliott Ronto and Jack Thomas.

FOLKESTONE INVICTA: Tim Roberts; Jerald Aboagye; Nat Blanks; Josh Vincent (Philip Starkey 81); Callum Davies; Jack Evans; Alfie Paxman (Sam Hasler 83); Ronnie Dolan; Johan

Ter Horst (Ian Draycott 77) ; Kane Rowland; Kieron McCann.

Unused substitutes: Michael Everitt and Nick Shaw.

Referee: Conor Farrell

Attendance: 323