

STOTFOLD 1-3 EAGLES

THE SCORELINE was less emphatic, but by all accounts, this was a more impressive victory over the same opponents as the week before.

Eagles stamped their authority on the game with an early goal and by making sure they matched Stotfold for commitment so that their greater quality could shine through.

There were a number of strong performances and all 12 players available played their part in a committed and mostly composed performance.

Nerves were settled in the opening couple of minutes when Luca Winterton and Logan Downie combined down the left and Jack Piggott followed his pre-match instructions to the letter by getting into the six-yard box to apply the finish.

Apart from a couple of near things from set pieces, Eagles controlled the game and could have scored again before a brilliant breakaway goal.

Sean Blois picked up the ball in his own half and ran most of the length of the field before leaving the ball for Downie to make it 2-0.

Kian Harness had been putting in a shift on the opposite flank to Downie in a revised 4-4-2 formation but the moment he was moved up front he made an impact.

Harness controlled the ball well from Cameron King's free kick and his shot was deflected into the net, allegedly off the backside of Piggott. Whatever happened, it was no more than the visitors deserved.

More of the same from the start of the second half would probably have seen Eagles win by a greater margin.

But the talking stopped and the concentration levels dropped, allowing a dogged but limited Stotfold side to gain a foothold in the match.

When a ball was only half cleared, a fine finish from the edge of the box made it 3-1.

As the Stotfold parents said, another goal for the home side might have made life interesting. But it never looked like coming.

With man of the match Downie taking people on down the left for fun, Eagles always had a threat.

The defence looked solid, as usual stalwarts King and Jacob Schroeder were ably assisted by Max Coutts and George Palmer.

Blois' return to central midfield gave Eagles a solidity and physical presence which prevented Stotfold from getting on top for any longer than a 10-minute period in the second half.

And Harness worked his socks off as ever, chasing down balls and (mostly) staying on the right side of the law with his competitiveness.

King almost made it four with a run and shot which would have given Eden Hazard a run for his money in the goal of the month competition.

But it was job done, and next up is the League Cup semi-final.

Team: Jacob McGlynn, Max Coutts, Cameron King, Jacob Schroeder, George Palmer, Kian Harness, Kyle Smith, Sean Blois, Logan Downie, Jack Piggott, Luca Winterton, Sam Fage.
ends