

## RTYFC COLTS 3 V 2 BSFC UNITED

For the fourth time since August, our opponents today were our all too familiar rivals Bishop's Stortford United. We've yet to beat United in the league but after a good display away from home that resulted in a 1-1 draw against them a few weeks back, hopes were high that today might just be our day.

With the tail end of storm Doris blowing a stiff breeze into our faces but on a good playing surface, we were under way at 10.30a.m and by 10.32 we'd already created the first scoring chance of the match as Jesse shot just over the United bar. The first ten minutes looked promising as the Colts won most of the challenges and looked well up for the fight in the early stages but with just ten minutes gone it all started to go very wrong. United took the lead as the Colts defence struggled to clear the ball sufficiently enough to avert any danger and the big lad in the Stortford midfield hit a low, hard shot from the edge of the area that whizzed into the bottom corner. Just two minutes later we conceded a free kick in the middle of the pitch and the resulting set piece lead to an easy header for the United striker and suddenly we were two nil down. Things went from bad to worse just moments later as a direct, route one move saw a through ball find a Stortford player in the clear. Despite him looking well offside he despatched the ball into the Colts net and within five disastrous minutes we found ourselves 0-3 down with the game already slipping away. Some superb tackling from Cookie at the back kept us hanging in there as the half went on and on the half hour point, Ollie nearly pulled one back for the Colts as his shot from the right hand side flew across the United goal mouth but unfortunately it didn't find the target. So at half time we faced a three nil deficit and had a mountain to climb.

Three minutes into the second half our small home pitch which so often seems to be a disadvantage to our style of play became an advantage when for the second time this season, Marcel scored an unlikely goal from a kick out of his hands that bounced over the tall Stortford keepers head and into the net. That goal seemed to be the catalyst for the Colts to push on and within less than a minute we scored again. Some great work from Ollie on the wing meant he was able to play Jem in and using his height and strength, Jem stayed strong to muscle his way through and get round the keeper to poke in a close range shot. Two - three down and we were back in this game. Jem had another scoring chance saved ten minutes after scoring that was well kept out and he set Harry up two minutes later but Harry's goal bound shot was just deflected to the safety of a corner by a United defenders boot. As usual against United, the tackles were flying in and the game was getting feisty. Stan Foster and Jesse were getting stuck in and battling hard in midfield, Harry was having a full on tussle with the centre backs and the boys from both teams were warned by the referee to keep a lid on things as it all got a little heated. Stan Kitchener was linking up well with Ollie to try and create some good football amidst the war zone but unfortunately for the boys, time wasn't on our side and with little more chances falling for either team in the latter stages, the whistle blew to bring this 2-3 defeat to its conclusion.

Once again, playing at home didn't really bring us any real advantage but once again the boys fought back from a position that they could easily have crumbled from. As Andy pointed out, the desire and commitment from everyone was good to see. The Colts simply never give up and refuse to be thrashed by anyone in what is undoubtedly a very tough league and a big step up from last season.

Jesse, who we easily forget is playing one year up from his actual age group, continues to hold his own in midfield and earned himself today's man of the match award for a another strong performance.