

BEDWELL RANGERS REDS 0-12 ROYSTON EAGLES

THIS WAS A TALE OF four goalkeepers.

The three who shared the clean –sheet bonus with their stints standing in for injury victim Jacob McGlynn.

And the lad between the posts for Bedwell who, strange as it may seem, was easily their man of the match and kept the score out of the 20s.

The hosts' second team had dropped down a division after being beaten 15-0 in the opening game of the season.

But with that romp chalked off, Eagles set about demolishing the Stevenage club's supposedly superior side.

With just 11 players available and none of them a recognised goalkeeper, there were a few nerves – on the touchline at least – even though the opposition did not have a fearsome reputation.

They soon went, though.

Sam Fage, who was impressive throughout, got the ball rolling by poaching the opener when the Bedwell 'keeper made pretty much his only mistake of the afternoon.

A long throw from Cameron King then set Kian Harness on his way to score the first of his hat-trick and his second soon arrived after a one-two with Luca Winterton.

Harness completed his treble, and the scoring in the first half, with a sumptuous free kick.

Sean Blois had threatened to score the goal of the season, only to shoot wide after a bulldozing run, other chances had been missed and the home 'keeper was already having a wordly, so more punishment for Bedwell was on the cards in the second half.

Winterton started and finished the eight-goal spree as he also grabbed a hat-trick. His first was a header from a Harness corner – hallelujah, the team can score from them after all – and it was his shot that the 'keeper kept out, only for Jack Piggott to put in the rebound.

Man-of-the-match King claimed one for himself, teed up Piggott's second of the game and then laid on Jacob McCormack's first for the club, which he deserved for a good display.

Winterton's quick feet allowed him to bring up double figures, Fage grabbed another and Winterton rounded off proceedings with a sweetly lofted finish.

George Palmer, Blois and Kyle Smith displayed guts to take their turns in between the posts but could not have asked for a much more gentle introduction to the art of goalkeeping.

But everyone could learn plenty from the guy at the other end who did his best to keep the score down.

You can only beat what is put in front of you and Eagles, even when reduced to the bare bones by injury and absence, have a vicious streak when it comes to putting teams away.

Team: George Palmer, Owen Maslen, Cameron King, Jacob Schroeder, Jacob McCormack, Sam Piggott, Kyle Smith, Sean Blois, Sam Fage, Luca Winterton, Kian Harness.