

RTYFC COLTS 2 – 3 BSFC UNITED

Remembrance Sunday saw the Colts take on Bishops Stortford United again this morning, a team we have had many close games with over the years but have rarely come away with a favourable result. After another perfectly observed minutes silence at 11am, we all hoped today would be our day.

For the first ten minutes it was United who were having the majority of the ball and we nearly fell behind when an early low driven shot from the away side went dangerously close but thankfully it whizzed past the wrong side of the post by a matter of inches. The Colts battled hard to resist the early onslaught and ride Stortford's waves of attack and with the scores level midway through the first half, it was the home side who started to gain momentum and take control of the game. Alfie nearly opened the scoring when he went close with a headed chance after fifteen minutes that was saved by a very competent Stortford keeper. Harry got his first one on one chance a minute later but his shot was parried away by the keeper and the resulting corner came to nothing. The Colts continued to press and the pressure they were putting on the away side paid off after twenty minutes when a poor goal kick fell to Harry's feet and this time he was able to toe poke a low drive into the bottom corner for a one nil lead. As half time approached, this game looked like it could go either way. United had a good scoring opportunity when a long shot that was possible heading narrowly wide was well saved by Marcel who wasn't taking any chances as he tipped the ball away to safety. Five minutes before half time Ed found himself in space with just the keeper to beat but a shot with his less favoured right foot was well kept out by the away keeper once again. Some good attacking work by Fred won us a free kick in a promising area just before the break but United managed to scramble Ollie's free kick away to safety.

So at half time and with a one nil lead things were looking promising for the Colts. This had been yet another solid battling first half performance but we'd need to match our opponents physically in every department to keep them at bay for another half, something we've struggled to do a bit of late as we come into the latter stage of matches.

The Colts had the first scoring opportunity of the second period when Fred's free kick from range was comfortably saved by the Stortford keeper but after that we came under the cosh and Remembrance Sunday began to look like a day we'd all want to forget. United began to pile on the pressure and looked like equalising when a cracking long range curler of a shot sailed just over our crossbar. Two minutes later United were in again but Marcel made a cracking diving save to keep our noses in front. Our visitors continued to press and on twenty minutes they were getting too close to equalising for comfort when a shot from inside our area rifled onto our crossbar and bounced away to safety. The Colts defensive lines finally gave way with fifteen minutes remaining when United tapped in from a corner to equalise and with their confidence now high they broke through again a minute later and before we knew it we were 2-1 down. Inevitably, with six minutes remaining the game was put beyond our reach when we went 3-1 down but this Colts side don't give up easily and what we lack in size and physical presence we certainly make up for in effort and determination and that never say die attitude gave us all a glimmer of hope with a minute to go when Harry bundled his way through a tired looking Stortford back line to slot in a late goal. It was no more than a well deserved conciliation for the home side in the end as we barely had time for the restart when the final whistle blew.

In summary, it was one of those frustrating results today that we need to take on the chin and not be too down about. This Stortford United team beat us 5-2 a few weeks back and we could have so easily come away with a well earned draw this morning at the very

least. Although it wasn't to be, there were still a lot of positives to be taken from this performance. The team are giving 100% week in week out and are holding their own in Division one which is an achievement in itself. The coaches pointed out that the boys may need to be a little more physical to compete with the players we are now coming up against but they praised the attitude of the team and the improvement they continue to make as individuals and as a squad. Fred Foster, who had a very solid game at left back, defending well, breaking forward when necessary and generally encouraging the team for the whole game was awarded this weeks man of the man trophy.

It's Hitchin up next for the Colts, a well established top flight side although it's not a fixture we need to fear but perhaps, all being well, an opportunity to nip this little losing streak in the bud!