

Sunday 28th January 2018

Friendly Match at the Springhouse Club, Corringham, Essex

Kick-Off: 10.30.a.m.

Result: **STIFFORD UNITED** 9 **EDMONTON ROVERS** 2 Half-Time: 2-1

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-4-1-1)			GOAL TIMES
1	GK	James GIBBS		
4	RB	Oshade WATSON		
2	CB	Lexton HARRISON		
5	CB	Harold OFORI (Captain)		
3	LB	Aiden KAVANAGH		
18	RM	Nana OBENG		27 Mins.
15	CM	Curtis BAALAM		
16	CM	Daniel CASCOE		
14	LM	Allan TOPPIN	OFF HT	
10	'No.10'	George HOUSE		77 Mins.
9	CF	Ayo MATTHEWS		
SUBSTITUTES				
11	LM	Daniel DALEY	ON HT	

MANAGER: Tony McKay

CLUB LINESMAN: Daniel Daley/Allan Toppin

ATTENDANCE: 8

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L.Hughes

REFEREE: Alan Hitchcock

BOOKINGS: Ricci Cayzer (Stifford United (Dissent)) **SENDING-OFFS:** None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Mainly cloudy & mild. Strong wind down pitch against us in the 2nd Half.

STATE OF PITCH: Soft & muddy but flat. Small in width.

UNAVAILABILITY: (19 Players) Grant Baker (GK) (Working), Taurean Bryan ('GK') (Injured), Leon McKenzie-McKay (Broken Ankle), Tyrone Petrie (Working), Anees Ikramullah (Family Commitments), Ivan Bass (Away), Jack Bangs (Foot Injury), Godfrey Tay (Calf Injury), Vishal Patel (Ankle Injury), Jordan Umpire (Family Commitments), Sam Woolley (Illness), Brandon Solomon (Working), Valentine Laurence (Working)

Saturday Night/Sunday Morning Drop-Outs: Jamie Mehmet (Family Commitments), Tom Croake (Illness), Henry Akinsanmi (Working), Mohamoud Abdillahi (Other Commitments), Mario Gioia (Other Commitments), Santo Salierno (Other Commitments)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-1-3-2): 55. Danny Chandler (GK); 2. Bradley Ress (RB), 5. Bradley Wade (CB...Captain), 16. Nick Hope (CB), 7. David Burton (LB); 37. Richard Wilson (CM Holding); 15. Joey Law (RM), 86. Stacey LePort (CM), 18. Warren Engwell (LM); 10. Ricci Cayzer (CF), 20. Glen Jordan (CF)

Sub.: 17. Frank Cooper ?

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Engwell (26 Mins.), Hope (33 Mins.), Jordan (55, 65, 84, 86 Mins.), Cayzer (69 Mins.), Ofori (O.G.) (71 Mins), Burton (73 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

As we had yet another Sunday without a League fixture, once again we looked for teams on Twitter who were advertising that they had a pitch available for a Friendly, so with a large number of our players living in South-West Essex including a number of supposedly top-quality trialists who were lined up to play, we decided to make a 40-minute journey to take on Stifford United, a team who compete in the Essex FA Sunday Premier Cup and had only lost 2-1 the week before in that competition to Priory Sports, who are arguably the best Sunday side in that particular County. Of course as soon as it got to the morning of the match, we were left with just a bare eleven with Daniel Daley not being able to complete the warm up due to the ankle injury that had kept him out for the last three months, while no less than 19 others made themselves unavailable, including six at too short notice to find anybody else. We then nearly let in a silly goal just 10 seconds into the match when Oshade Watson dallied on the ball, but thankfully the resulting shot was placed wide. However, Stifford then missed a couple of other clear-cut chances before they finally took the lead in the 26th minute when Warren Engwell headed in at the far post from a right-wing cross, although we had created a few half-chances of our own while managing to equalise just a minute later when 18-year-old debutant Nana Obeng finished well after running onto an excellent through ball from Curtis Baalam. Not for the first time this season though, we allowed our opponents to score with a free header from a corner in the 33rd minute to leave us 2-1 down at the break, and with trialist Allan Toppin struggling to impress, Manager Tony McKay decided to risk Daniel Daley as a straight swap for the Second Half. That saw us play slightly better, but after we went 3-1 down in the 55th minute from a disputed goal that may well have been offside, our heads then started going down with no more substitutes available and we then conceded another six as Stifford's fitter and stronger players took advantage of our lack of teamwork in crucial areas of the pitch as a result of us fielding almost a completely different side every week. Goal No.4 for them in the 65th minute was a particular embarrassment as two of our better players from last season, Aiden Kavanagh & Harold Ofori made a mess of a short free-kick to each other inside their own half, while Harold then scored an Own Goal in the 71st minute for Stifford's sixth. Keeper James Gibbs was then at fault for being indecisive for two of Stifford's last three goals in the last 15 minutes which saw their top scorer Glen Jordan complete a four-goal haul, but at least we scored another consolation goal after 77 minutes when George House curled in an excellent free-kick. We still needed a major inquest after the match as to how we can get ourselves out of this mess though. Players showing a bit more commitment and making themselves available might help.