

ROYSTON TOWN (3) v HANWELL TOWN (2)

SATURDAY 27TH MARCH 2010

SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Travelling to meet in form Royston Town, we were narrowly beaten in a closely fought contest in a game watched by a crowd of 200, higher than any other attendance in Ryman Division One North.

For various reasons, Charley Baverstock, Michael Buckley, Aaron Wise and Chris Mills were unable to play, so joining Marvyn Watson, Tashan Bradshaw and Antony Rowlands on the sidelines. However, despite this we produced a very spirited display and on another day might just have come away with a point.

Royston almost took the lead in the opening minutes when Ross Collins right through on goal shot wide of the far post and shortly after, Collins saw his header loop just over our crossbar after a rapid breakaway. Our first real attempt on goal came in the seventeenth minute when Keith Rowlands played into space by Wayne Jackson saw his shot blocked by the legs of the Royston keeper Jordan Gibson. In the twenty second minute, Royston took the lead when centre back Dean McElvoy who was completely unmarked headed home Lewis Endacott's free kick on the far post. However, our response was immediate as after Gibson had made a tremendous save to block Gulad Adan's shot, from the resultant corner kick taken by Wayne, Gulad headed firmly home. Play was pretty even until the interval with neither keeper being seriously tested, although five minutes before the interval we had a let off when Royston's Tom Malins capitalised on some hesitancy in our defence to head on a bouncing ball into the path of Collins but he screwed his shot wide.

Royston introduced all three of their substitutes after the interval, an option not available to us as we had only travelled with Connor Patterson on the bench. Nevertheless, ten minutes into the half we were in the lead as Yassine Fehmi-Gil played the ball through to Keith who held off the challenge of a defender before firing the ball past Gibson. At the other end, Keiran made a fine save from Luke Robins before from a well planned free kick move, Blaise O'Brien missed a great chance to put us two up. We then had what we thought was a good shout for a penalty when Keith seemed to be tripped in the box and our chagrin was complete when shortly afterwards, the ball was on the penalty spot at the other end as in a goalmouth scramble, Keiran was adjudged to have pushed a Royston player. After a long delay due to an injury to Gulad, Ryan Lockett drove home the spot kick. Thirteen minutes from time, Royston scored what proved to be the winning goal when Malins, again unmarked, headed home Lockett's corner at the far post. In the final minute, Yassine pulled the ball back into the path of Wayne who's shot flew just wide of the far post with Gibson beaten. **Side: K Jimmy, I Jimmy, Abelson, Adan, Tucker, M O'Brien, Y Fehmi-Gil, K Rowlands, Martin, B O'Brien and Jackson. Sub Patterson for I Jimmy (85)**