

Staffordshire Cup
Sunday 24th October 2010

Abbots Bromley 6 v 4 Milton Wanderers (A.E.T)

In an extraordinary cup tie that produced one of the shocks of the round, Bromley erased the memories of two consecutive defeats against Stoke based Milton with a comeback that will go down as their finest performance to date.

Nobody could have predicted the final outcome after 45 minutes in which the visitors had totally dominated largely due to a fine performance from Milton's Kurt Price who terrorised the Bromley defence.

Bromley found themselves going into the break on the wrong end of 3-0 score line with goals from Frisk (2) and Price giving Milton a deserved lead which looked to have made the tie a formality.

The home side came out for the second half looking to avoid an embarrassing score line and restore some credibility and began by going close on a couple of occasions but to no avail.

They were rewarded in the 62nd minute when Miltons keeper failed to deal with a corner kick and defender Greg Peters was on hand to turn the ball into the net from close range.

Bromley started to grow in confidence and 12 minutes later they were back in the tie after substitute Sweeting capitalised on a scramble in the area by poking the ball over the line.

As the home side went looking for the equaliser Miltons defence started to look shaky and on 83 minutes Olly Crooks delivered a free kick into the penalty area which evaded everyone and crept into the corner of the net to make the scoreline 3-3 and set up an enthralling finish.

Bromleys Ashley Clay had the opportunity to finish the game on 90 minutes when he shot wide from a difficult angle with only the keeper to beat.

A shell shocked Milton were relieved to hear the final whistle and with the game now going into extra time looked like a boxer on the ropes.

They were dealt a sucker punch as early as the first minute of extra time when Bromleys Clay fired the home side ahead for the first time with the goal of the game after a clinical strike from 25 yards which found the top corner of the net.

Bromley were energised and started to believe they could be on the brink of achieving something special and 12 minutes later were ecstatic after debutant

Gareth Thomas broke through and coolly slotted the ball past Miltons keeper to give the home side a 5-3 lead.

The second half of extra time began with Bromley trying to defend a lead, something that they had failed to do on a number of occasions this season and with 6 minutes to go Frisk competed his hat trick for Milton with a well taken free kick from outside the area.

Any nerves the home side may have had were finally dispelled with 3 minutes to go when Ashley Clay found himself with only the keeper to beat and drilled the ball into the corner of the net to end the drama and send Bromley marching on to the next round and preparing to face Doveridge at home in the Charity cup this Sunday (k.o 10.30am)

Manager Mark Hurst (snr) said “ We must learn from the first half where we gave them too much respect and looked tired but these lads today never knew when they were beat and everyone of them played their part in what was a massive result for the club against a good established side”