Match Report

FA Inter League Cup – 2nd Round (played at Sutton United FC, 16th November 2019)

AMATEUR FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1 JERSEY FOOTBALL COMBINATION 2 (a.e.t.)

The AFC narrowly missed out on progressing to the quarter finals of the Inter League cup agonisingly losing in extra time to a strong Jersey side, many of whom play their weekly football at a step higher in the football pyramid.

In a tight first half Jersey started off with the majority of the possession but failed to make many clear-cut chances against an AFC side playing 3-5-2. It was AFC who nearly broke the deadlock first when Ryan Bright hit the post with a stunning shot from 25 yards out on the half hour mark. This was followed by Jersey hitting the bar from close range a couple of minutes later. AFC came more into the game as the half progressed but neither side could get the first goal before half-time.

The second half was fairly even with only a limited number of chances for either side. Jersey were awarded several free kicks just outside the AFC area and from one of these keeper, Henry Warne made a great save from Sol Soloman. The match looked to be heading goalless into extra time when AFC opened the scoring after 78 minutes. Following good work down the right, full back Cameron McGovern smashed a powerful drive past the Jersey keeper, Euan van der Vliet from well outside the area.

Could the AFC hold on for the remaining 15 minutes or so? Unfortunately not. With four minutes of normal time to go, a cross by Soloman was given the slightest of touches by Arthur Illingworth to creep in at the far post. 1-1. AFC were momentarily rocked and 2 minutes later Jersey had the ball in the net again only for the goal to be ruled out for off-side. Neither side could get a last minute winner.

Extra time started off with Jersey’s Karl Hinds being dismissed for violent conduct wrapping his arm round the neck of an AFC defender. Unfortunately, AFC could not really find a way of making the extra man count. Craig Jones did go close to restoring AFC’s lead after a mix-up in Jersey’s defence but it was the visitors who got the vital goal. In the 112th minute, centre half Luke Campbell hammered home a penalty following a foul by Murray Gibb on a Jersey attacker. AFC almost equalised a couple of minutes later when a close range header hit a post and van der Vliet made an almost unbelievable save from the rebound, but Jersey held on to win a close-fought game.

Commiserations to Luke Graham’s AFC side who on another day could have easily won. Jersey now go on to play the Southern Amateur League in the quarter final.