

FA Cup – 2nd Qualifying Round – AFC Hornchurch 2 v East Grinstead Town 1 – Saturday 22nd September 2018

Match Report by Stewart Ward

Grinstead failed to reach the Third Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the first time in the club's history after they were narrowly beaten by a Hornchurch side, currently unbeaten this season playing in the Bostik Premier.

Grinstead last got this far in the competition 47 years ago and at times looked like they could cause an upset but ultimately it was Hornchurch who won through with their direct physical approach.

Grinstead controlled possession for long spells of the first half but it was the hosts who created the better chances.

Bradley Warner had the first meaningful effort when he got the better of Ryan Johnson on the edge of the box before weakly shooting at Sheikh Ceesay.

A sharp turn in the box the prolific George Purcell saw his shot fly just wide before he went even closer when his cross shot hit the inside of the post before with Ceesay well beaten.

Grinstead had more than held their own but just a minute into the second half they were behind. A long throw in was not dealt with which allowed Purcell to sweep home a finish on the turn from the edge of the box.

The visitors responded well and five minutes later were back on level terms. George Landais found some space on the edge of the box and curled a delightful shot past Callam Chafer.

Grinstead then nearly took the lead. A strong run by Jordy Mongoy down the left saw his effort saved at close range by Chafer.

Soon after Hornchurch regained the lead. A cross from the left was not cut out and despite Ollie Boulding's best efforts on the line Sean Marks had the simple task of tapping home from a yard out.

Hornchurch then took control and threatened to increase their lead. Ceesay tipped over a Warner effort before Johnson cleared off the line following a cross from the left.

Grinstead stood firm and started to look for the equaliser as the game entered the final ten minutes. It was substitute Jack Conway who nearly provided it when he hit a curling left foot shot that was well saved by Chafer.

Despite having Johnson sent off with six minutes remaining Grinstead still continued to push and deep into injury time Orlando Smith headed over when well placed.