The TOUCHLINE WITH DUGOUT NEWS

MATCH REPORT

Friday, 4 September 2026



WILLIAMS STRIKES LATE TO SETTLE FA CUP QUALIFYING TIE

Kingstonian booked their place in the second qualifying round of the Emirates FA Cup with a hard-fought 1–0 victory over ten-man Three Bridges under the lights on Friday night.



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The visitors made the brighter start and controlled much of the opening half. Three Bridges goalkeeper Sam Roberts was called into action early, producing a string of saves to keep Kingstonian at bay.

Roberts denied the visitors' Sean O'Brien after he had been played through by the lively Rocky Williams, before comfortably stopping another effort from Kingstonian's Stan Flaherty. The resulting corners and free-kicks kept Three Bridges under pressure, but the hosts defended resolutely and repeatedly cleared their lines.

Three Bridges gradually began to offer a threat of their own. Hayden Velvick made an excellent run down the right before being brought down in a promising position. From another dangerous delivery, the ball struck the crossbar before Kingstonian managed to clear.



Evening falls over Three Bridges. Photograph: Brandon Wright



Photograph: Brandon Wright

Josh Hallard later sent an inviting cross into the area, but nobody in a Three Bridges shirt could provide the finishing touch. Rocky Williams also tried his luck at the other end, sending a shot narrowly wide.

Despite Kingstonian enjoying the better of the opening 45 minutes, Three Bridges held firm to ensure the sides went into the break level at 0–0.

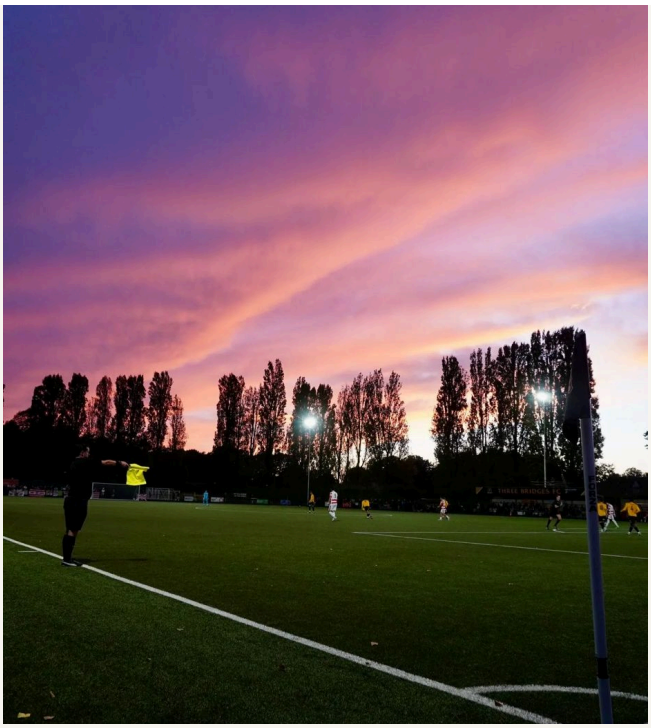
Stan Flaherty had the first opportunity of the second half, but Roberts once again made the save look comfortable. Kingstonian continued to threaten from set pieces, although the home defence stood strong.

Three Bridges then won a free-kick in a promising area following a foul on Charlie Bennett. Josh Hallard delivered an excellent ball into the box, but Kingstonian cleared. Hayden Velvick collected the loose ball and crossed, although his delivery carried over the bar.

The hosts' best opportunity arrived when Kevin Rivera found himself with a sight of goal, but his shot flew over the crossbar.

The decisive moment came with around ten minutes remaining. Jamie Watson lost possession in midfield, allowing Kingstonian to break forward through Flaherty. Rocky Williams then struck a low effort which went in off the post to give the visitors a 1–0 lead.

Three Bridges' task became even more difficult when their captain was dismissed after receiving a second yellow card. Kingstonian nearly doubled their advantage when substitute Kavell Buckmaster struck the crossbar late on, but one goal proved enough.



Photograph: Brandon Wright

After four minutes of added time, the referee brought the contest to an end. Three Bridges had battled bravely, with Roberts producing an excellent performance in goal, but Williams' late strike sent Kingstonian through to the next round.

The TOUCHLINE

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