



Saturday 10th September 2011

GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY 4, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2
(BLUE SQUARE BET NORTH)

For the second Saturday in a row Stortford were on the wrong end of a sting in the tail as they slipped to their fourth successive defeat on the road this campaign. 2-3 down in the first minute of stoppage time at the end of the match and pushing for an equaliser, Dwight Gayle, with close range shots, was twice denied by saves by former Blackpool stopper Phil Barnes before the hosts broke to the other end and netted their final goal with virtually the last kick of the contest.

As in the previous weekend's match against Boston the Blues played well enough at times to have got something from the match. They started well at the Northolme and certainly had the Lincolnshire side looking decidedly shaky in the last ten minutes or so during which time Stortford were down to ten men as Dean Rance was injured in the lead up to the Blues' second goal and with all three substitutions made Ian Walker could make no further change. Once again on Saturday the opposition was full of players who have played in the Conference and lower Football League and the young Blues side lack that experience and it seems to be counting against them at the moment.

For the starting line up Ian Walker brought in Steffan Gaisie for his first match of the season whilst Bernard Quainoo, who scored in the pre-season game against Cambridge United, and Paco Craig, formerly a West Ham United youth team player, were on the bench.

A bright start in blustery conditions saw Steffan Gaisie's early shot deflected for a corner in the first minute and the flag kick reached Connor Essam towards the far post but the centre back's cross was blocked and cleared. Trinity's first threat came after 11 minutes after Reece Prestedge had fouled Jamie Yates and Kevin Sandwith's free-kick hit an upright.

A distance shot from striker Ryan Kendall was tipped over the top by Nicky Eyre and then two uncharacteristic errors by Connor Essam in a matter of a minute almost gave Gainsborough openings. Trinity were now gaining the upper hand in midfield and they went in front after 20 minutes. Michael Leary crossed from the right touchline and former Braintree and Canvey Island defender GAVIN COWAN, with a virtually free header powered the ball wide of Eyre (1-0).

The Blues fought back and after Dwight Gayle had a shot from the edge of the box deflected for a corner, Michael Bakare netted a loose ball in the 22nd minute but Referee Glen Hart gave the hosts a free-kick for a possible offside decision against Steffan Gaisie in the build-up. Two minutes later, Stortford were close to being on level terms. A quick break upfield up the right ended with Junior Dadson playing the ball inside and Dwight Gayle's first time low 25 yard effort was scrambled against an upright by keeper Phil Barnes.

In the 32nd minute, after receiving the ball from Michael Bakare, Gayle again went close, this time with a shot from 12 yards that was deflected just wide. Stortford forced a lot of corners in the match, particularly in the first half, and just before the break they registered three successive corners but weren't able to make any of them count.

Half time: 1-0

Immediately on the restart Ian Walker brought Ade Cole on for Steffan Gaisie and in the 50th minute when Scott Shulton was fouled by Michael Leary, Michael Bakare's free-kick was deflected just wide of Barnes' left hand post.

However, Trinity doubled their lead in the 52nd minute. In a raid up the left substitute Owain Warlow linked with Ryan Kendall who shrugged off a challenge from Ritchie Jones before crossing low for DARRYN STAMP to find the back of the net from 15 yards (2-0).

After this goal the Blues allowed the hosts to go on the ascendancy and Kendall went close whilst Nicky Eyre saved from Warlow and also held on to a far post header from Stamp that was nodded straight at him. Scott Shulton tried a long range effort in the 63rd minute that was held low down by Barnes. Shulton was then forced off with a hamstring problem shortly afterwards and Paco Craig, making his debut, replaced him.

Craig's first touch of the ball played a part in the Blues reducing the arrears in the 66th minute. He played the ball from just inside his own half out to Dean Rance, who had earlier replaced Junior Dadson, and the Gillingham midfielder sent a great ball down the right touchline for Ade Cole to collect and cross to just inside the box where MICHAEL BAKARE took it on a pace before striking a curled low shot inside the far post (2-1).

Five minutes later Jonathan D'Laryea, for Trinity, crossed to Warlow who hit the post from 20 yards and although Stortford seemed to be more threatening they fell further behind in the 76th minute. Following an attack up the left Darryn Stamp, with a long pass into the middle, found RYAN WILLIAMS in acres of space and the midfielder cracked a bullet of a shot from over 30 yards past Nicky Eyre (3-1).

Ryan Kendall almost got through after a one on one situation with Nicky Eyre a minute later but Stortford were back in it when they again cut the deficit with ten minutes remaining. In a move that started out on the right and shifted towards the edge of the left side of the box, Paco Craig supplied the final pass for MICHAEL BAKARE to take on a couple on a couple of yards and then hit a low shot on the turn that ended up in the bottom opposite corner of the net (3-2). This was Bakare's fifth goal so far this term. Referee Hart had played good advantage as Dean Rance was injured in the play leading up to the goal. He was so badly injured that he came off with damaged ankle ligaments and is likely to be out of action for some time.

Despite being down to ten men for the remainder of the game Stortford took the game to the hosts who looked very uncomfortable in the closing minutes. In the 85th minute Dwight Gayle turned a long kick downfield from Nicky Eyre into Michael Bakare's path but as he bore down on goal Michael Leary managed to produce a fine tackle a clear the danger and then in the first minute of time added on a long ball from Phil Anderson found Michael Bakare cutting in from the left. Bakare could have tried a shot at goal himself but crossed to the far post. Dwight Gayle gained possession and from a very tight angle fired in a shot that Barnes blocked away but the young Stortford striker retrieved the ball only again to be foiled by Barnes as the Gainsborough stopper somehow kept the ball out.

In the fourth minute of time added on Stortford were still pressing hard for an equaliser and they were caught by Barnes' long punt deep into the Blues' half. Ryan Williams got control of the ball on the left and crossed into the box for DARRYN STAMP to hit a first time volley past Nicky Eyre (4-2).

During the match Dean Rance was shown a yellow card by Referee Hart after holding back Owain Warlow whilst for Trinity Michael Leary, for a trip on Scott Shulton, and substitute Leon Mettam, for a late challenge on Mo Habu, collected bookings.

Full time: 4-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Nicky Eyre; Ritchie Jones; Phil Anderson; Scott Shulton (sub – Paco Craig 65 mins); Mo Habu; Connor Essam; Junior Dadson (sub – Dean Rance 61 mins); Reece Prestedge; Dwight Gayle; Steffan Gaisie (sub – Ade Cole 46 mins); Michael Bakare. Unused substitutes: Bernard Quainoo and George Dawson.

GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY: Phil Barnes; Dominic Roma; Kevin Sandwith; Gavin Cowan; Andrew Boyce; Michael Leary; Jonathan D'Laryea; Ryan Williams; Ryan Kendall (sub – Leon Mettam 79 mins); Darryn Stamp; Jamie Yates (sub – Owain Warlow 42 mins). Unused substitutes: Mark Gray, Lewis McMahon and Craig Nelthorpe. Attendance: 465