

Monday 19th Aug 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Boreham Wood FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Boreham Wood 2 - 2 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 2 - 1 : Att 251

The Skril South

An improved performance at Broughinge Road following on the opening day defeat against Bath City saw Stortford pick up their first point of the season. In an entertaining match that increasingly got feisty a draw was probably the correct result as both sides had spells where they were on top in midfield and had more of the game territorially. The Blues after the break, in particular, had the better of the exchanges forcing a number of corners and they equalised sixteen minutes from time after going behind before the interval. Callum McNaughton then headed against the bar late on but in the end the Blues had to be content with a share of the points with the Wood.

Rod Stringer 's team showed two changes to the starting eleven with Sean Francis coming into the centre of defence and George Sykes partnering Kyle Vassell up front. There was little between the two sides at the start and very few openings although George Allen hit a low shot from outside the box that was deflected into the arms of Wood stopper James Russell in the 9th minutes.

The Blues then started to look stronger in midfield and entered a period of play that culminated in their first goal. Good link up play between George Sykes and Kyle Vassell resulted in Russell saving on one side of the goal from Sykes and then at the foot of the post on the other side from Vassell. Then when Matt Johnson crossed from the right Reece Prestedge swung a foot but missed the ball ten yards from goal. Stortford 's opening goal arrived shortly afterwards in the 24th minute. Anthony Church won an important tackle 15 yards inside the Wood half and George Sykes sent the loose ball out to the right where KYLE VASELL took it on and drilled a strong low angled drive past Russell and just inside the far upright (0-1).

On the half-hour Johnny Herd and George Sykes were involved in a move up the left which finished with Russell going down to hold on to a flick from Vassell at the near post. At that time everything looked promising for the Bishops but they were then floored by two goals in two minutes by the hosts. In the 33rd minute after a move up the left flank with Graeme Montgomery full back Mark Jones swung a centre over towards the far post and DONOVAN SIMMONDS beat Sam Cowler with a header although the keeper got his hands to the ball (1-1). The a minute later when Jones again crossed from the left the ball was deflected out to MATT BALL some 20 yards out and the midfielder 's volley gave Cowler little chance (2-1).

Before the break Russell was lucky to get away with a poor clearance that Vassell wasn 't quite able to control whilst at the other end Ball was close with another long range effort that was just over the bar.

The Blues started an incident packed second half in good style with Church sending Vassell away down the left within a minute of the restart and the striker 's low ball went across the six yard box with no one to turn it into the net. Then soon afterwards a Herd corner was back-headed at the near post by Callum McNaughton and Matt Johnson had a header blocked. The dangerous Matt Ball made tracks for goal and Cowler turned his shot away for a corner in the 54th minute and four minutes later, at the opposite end, Ashley Miller fired a low 20 yard drive from the right that just missed the far post. On the hour mark a Reece Prestedge corner on the right was narrowly headed over the angle by Callum McNaughton from a good position.

Although Montgomery went close for Wood the Blues were pressing hard and when, with twenty minutes left Johnny Herd crossed into the box from the left the ball ricocheted around the six yard box before Reece Prestedge lifted his shot over the bar from the edge of the area. Stortford 's deserved equaliser came in the 74th minute. Former Blue Ben Nunn fouled Kyle Vassell on the left and Matt Johnson 's free-kick found SEAN FRANCIS towards the back post and the central defender 's header went wide of Russell (2-2).

The Blues continued to press and after a long range shot by Vassell was saved by Russell at the expense of a corner he combined with George Sykes to send the youngster on loan from Barnet through down the middle but Ben Nunn made an excellent tackle to save the situation and concede a corner.

Callum McNaughton almost netted a winner for the Blues with three minutes of normal time remaining when his thumping header cannoned off the crossbar following Matt Johnson 's free-kick into the box from the right. Wood had a late rally in stoppage time and after a quick raid upfield resulted in them being awarded a free-kick just outside the Blues ' box fortunately the defensive wall blocked away Mario Noto 's dead ball kick. Stortford had Kyle Vassell, Anthony Church, George Allen and Reece Prestedge cautioned by Referee Anthony Serrano during the match whilst Wood 's Matt Ball and Luke Garrard were also booked.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Sam Cowler; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum Mc Naughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Kyle Vassell; George Sykes; Reece Prestedge

Unused substitutes: Steve Cawley, Harry Baker, Luke Milbourne, Kyle Asante and Joe Wright.

BOREHAM WOOD James Russell; Ben Nunn; Mark Jones; Luke Garrard; Charlie O 'Loughlin; Matt Ball; Donovan Simmonds; Mario Noto; Calum Willock (sub - Robert Hastings 80 mins); Matthew Whichelow (sub - Karl Brown 88 mins) ; Graeme Montgomery (sub - Raheem Stirling-Parker 88 mins).

Unused substitutes: Sam Doolan and James Courtneage.