

Monday 26th Aug 2013

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



**Bishop's Stortford FC**



**Bromley FC**



Bishop 's Stortford 1 - 0 Bromley : HT 0 - 0 : Att 451

## The Skril South

Following on their victory at Sutton two days earlier, the Blues made it a Bank Holiday winning "double" with Ashley Miller netting the only goal of the game against a strong Lilywhites side that before the encounter were top of the Skril South table. It was a top-class success that Stortford fully deserved in a thoroughly entertaining contest. They had started well before the visitors had the better of the period before the break. But on the restart the Blues battled hard to give one hundred per cent and the Bromley goal had a good many escapes including a great penalty save by keeper Lewis Carey until Miller notched the winner just past the midpoint of the half.

The Blues took the field showing one change to the starting eleven and this was between the sticks with Joe Wright replacing Sam Cowler who had fractured a little finger in three places at Sutton.

Attacking the Airport end, Stortford made the early running and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute Reece Prestedge linked with Johnny Herd down the inside left channel and Bromley skipper Rob Swaine had to move quickly to tackle and deny Herd at the expense of a corner. A Prestedge corner on the right in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute was headed close past the near upright by Anthony Church. The Blues good approach work continued and Kyle Vassell and Reece Prestedge combined down the left and when the skipper crossed towards the near post George Sykes almost flicked the ball over Carey but the keeper held the ball above his head.

Vassell's drive from 23 yards was just over the bar after Sykes had played the ball back to the striker in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute. It was from that point midway through the half that the visitors began to come back into the match territorially and posed a threat. The Kent side's number nine, Bradley Goldberg, who had caused the Blues problems when Hastings United knocked them out of the FA Cup last season, laid the ball up for Brendan Kiernan to have a shot that deflected wide of the near post. Then when Joe Anderson and Pierre Joseph-Dubois set Goldberg up for a run at goal from the right flank Joe Wright produced a fine blocking save to keep the score-line blank.

The visitors again were close to opening the scoring in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute when both Steven Smith and Jay May hit the post following a cross into the middle from Goldberg. The ball did end up in the net but Assistant Referee Stephen Moore had already raised his flag for an offside decision against May. Shortly afterwards Callum McNaughton was dispossessed in mid-field by Pierre Joseph-Dubois who advanced on goal but again Joe Wright kept the Stortford goal intact with another good block.

In the 36<sup>th</sup> minute Bradley Goldberg almost broke clear on goal but George Allen timed his interception perfectly to divert the striker's shot for a corner. In time added on before the break the Lilywhites' Jay May found the net with an overhead kick but again his effort was ruled out by an offside verdict.

After the interval it was the visitors turn to play second fiddle as Stortford dominated long periods of the second half. Within a minute of the restart Matt Johnson switched the ball out to the left flank to George Sykes who, cutting in, beat a defender and drove a low shot from an acute angle that the diving Carey pushed away at the near post.

Two minutes later Sykes was in the action again when his far post header from a Prestedge corner was turned round the post by Carey. The Blues were now in a good spell and in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute when Ashley Miller sent Kyle Vassell away down the right the striker had his first cross blocked by a defender and when the ball did reach the middle both Johnny Herd and George Sykes saw their angled strikes blocked by defenders.

The Blues had a real chance to take the lead ten minutes into the half when they were awarded a spot-kick. Johnny Herd had planted a centre from the left over to the far post where Kyle Vassell went up for the ball with defender Joe Anderson. Referee Michael George ruled that Anderson had handled the ball in the incident and gave a penalty. However, Vassell's spot-kick resulted in a great save by keeper Carey who threw himself to his left to keep the ball out of the net.

Amazingly Reece Prestedge's corner kick seconds later went along the goal-line before Anderson cleared near the far post – there were a few appeals by Stortford that the ball had crossed the line. Soon afterwards George Sykes went close and then Prestedge put Vassell through but he failed to control the ball in front of goal and lost possession.

It was hard to keep up with all the action and in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute it was Sykes' turn to put Vassell in with a chance but the striker hit the underside of the bar from 12 yards. A minute later Joe Wright's long clearance found Vassell running through past the visiting defence but Lewis Carey, diving low to his right, again saved well.

The winning goal finally arrived in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute. A throw on the left by Johnny Herd was flicked on across goal by Anthony Church and ASHLEY MILLER arrived to turn the ball into the corner of the net with the outside of his boot from 7 yards out (1-0).

Stortford remained in charge until the end of the match and the only time the side from Kent threatened to equalise was eleven minutes from the end of normal time when Rob Swaine's far post header was scrambled away following a corner by substitute Danny Waldren.

The Blues were close to doubling their lead deep into the four minutes of added time before the match's conclusion. Substitute Cliff Akurang spread the ball out to the left for Reece Prestedge to cut in on goal but Carey kept the skipper's angled shot out at the near post with his legs.

Referee George showed yellow cards to George Allen, Reece Prestedge and Cliff Akurang and also booked Bromley's Joe Anderson.

This was the first time that the Blues had kept a "clean sheet" at home since the goal-less draw with Stalybridge Celtic at the beginning of February.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum Mc Naughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church (sub – Ben Adams 78 mins); Kyle Vassell (sub – Cliff Akurang 78 mins); George Sykes (sub – Kyle Asante 86 mins); Reece Prestedge

Unused substitutes: Harry Baker and Luke Milbourne.

**BROMLEY:** Lewis Carey; Dean Pooley (sub – Warren McBean 78 mins); Joe Anderson; Steven Smith; Rob Swaine; Jack Holland; Pierre Joseph-Dubois; Elliott Buchanan (sub – Danny Waldren 66 mins); Bradley Goldberg; Jay May; Brendan Kiernan (sub – Mike Jones 68 mins).

Unused substitutes: Ashley Nicholls and Jordan Clarke.