

Saturday 24th Aug 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Sutton Utd FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Sutton 1 - 2 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 1 - 0 : Att 405

The Skril South

A goal down at the break at a rain-soaked Borough Sports Ground the Blues stormed back in the second half to clinch their first Skril South victory of the campaign. An equaliser from skipper Reece Prestedge and a winner from Matt Johnson which would be an early contender for the "goal of the season" was the culmination of forty five minutes of desire and hard work by Stortford. All turned out well after the day had started badly with the Blues enduring a horrendous journey to South London arriving only fifty minutes before the kick-off.

Rod Stringer retained the same side that had begun at Boreham Wood five days earlier with the only changes being on the bench with Cliff Akurang and Ben Adams being amongst the substitutes.

With the floodlights on from the start of the match there was an early opening in the third minute for the Bishops when Johnny Herd's cross to the edge of the box found George Sykes in plenty of space but the striker on loan from Barnet could only get a slight contact with his head on the ball and it ran through to be collected by keeper Tom Lovelock.

Straightaway at the other end Callum McNaughton sliced a cross from the left by United's Sam Rents up in the air and Sam Cowler was forced to turn the ball over the crossbar. The resultant corner from Rents caused some confusion in the Blues' back line before being cleared.

Dean McDonald went close for the hosts before, in the 12th minute, another flag kick from Rents on the left caused problems with ball flying around the six yard box until Sean Francis cleared upfield from his own goal-line. Then, five minutes later, McDonald blocked an intended pass upfield from Sean Francis just inside the Blues' half and Jamie Taylor took possession of the loose ball to run at goal. Trying to curl a 20 yard shot the home striker saw Sam Cowler dive to his left to turn the ball away for a another corner.

Almost immediately the Blues mustered a dangerous attack with Reece Prestedge setting Kyle Vassell away on the left and from his centre Matt Johnson slightly delayed his shot from 15 yards and Sutton stopper Lovelock dashed out of goal to block at the feet of the midfielder. Lovelock was injured denying Johnson but continued after treatment

After a first twenty minutes in which there had been little between the sides Sutton took the lead. Craig Dundas' pass out to the right flank found Dean McDonald and when his cross was returned to him by the Blues' defence he drove the ball back low into the six yard box and GEORGE ALLEN, facing his own goal, could only stab the ball into his own net from a couple of yards range (1-0).

Kyle Vassell was close to equalising within seconds of the restart and then, in the 22nd minute, when Reece Prestedge's through ball released George Sykes down the middle the youngster, under pressure from behind, struck a rising shot from the edge of the box that was wide of the left angle of the goal.

Dundas headed over another corner from Rents at the far post just after the half-hour mark and the U's were the better side in the minutes leading up to the break whilst Blues' attacks promised more than they delivered. Late in the half Tom Lovelock dropped a Matt Johnson free-kick but fortunately for the Sutton keeper his defence managed to scramble the ball away out of danger.

Whatever Rod Stringer said at the break as Stortford looked very positive from the outset of the second half with Kyle Vassell having an early shot at goal held on the ground by Lovelock. They continued to have the edge until the equaliser arrived in the 61st minute. Johnny Herd played the ball forward to George Sykes who headed it back into the path of Anthony Church and the midfielder laid a pass out to REECE PRESTEDGE advancing from the left. The skipper cutting in to 15 yards out shot low past Lovelock and into the net off the far post (1-1).

In the 64th minute Sykes was narrowly wide with a speculative effort from 25 yards and then only a minute after he had been booked for a challenge on defender Jamie Stuart, MATT JOHNSON scored what proved to be the winning goal in the 75th minute. Anthony Church slipped the ball to the midfielder, close to 35 yards from goal and centrally placed, and his first time shot beat Lovelock to the keeper's right for a spectacular goal (1-2).

Stortford looked in control but the hosts mounted a late assault in the closing minutes. Sam Cowler made a fine save to prevent a 25 yarder from Ali Fuseini finding the net and when Craig Dundas fastened on to the loose ball seconds later George Allen came across quickly and produced an excellent tackle to deny the striker. Shortly afterwards Marvin Williams' shot was stopped at the near post by the Blues keeper.

Kyle Vassell was close to extending the lead three minutes from the end of normal time after the Surrey side's defence got themselves in a muddle and when the Stortford number nine shot from an acute angle on the left it seemed destined to find an empty net but the sodden pitch held up the run of the ball and Lovelock was able to run back and gather the ball inches from the line.

An effort from Jamie Taylor just passed over the Stortford crossbar in the 89th minute as Cowler advanced off his line and the Blues resolutely defended to the final whistle to take the three points back home.

Referee Simon Knapp cautioned Stortford's George Allen, Matt Johnson and Kyle Vassell along with United's Ali Fuseini, Jamie Stuart and Moses Swaibu.

Full time: 1-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Sam Cowler; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum Mc Naughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Kyle Vassell (sub – Kyle Asante 90 mins); George Sykes (sub – Steve Cawley 70 mins); Reece Prestedge
Unused substitutes: Harry Baker, Cliff Akurang, and Ben Adams.

SUTTON UNITED: Tom Lovelock; Jamie Folkes (sub – Dale Binns 62 mins); Sam Rents; Jamie Stuart; Moses Swaibu; Dean McDonald (sub – Mitchell Nelson 53 mins); Anthony Riviere ((sub – Dean Sinclair 64 mins); Ali Fuseini; Craig Dundas; Jamie Taylor; Marvin Williams. Unused substitutes: Damian Scannell and Simon Downer.