

Saturday 14th Sept 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Dorchester Town FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Dorchester Town 1 - 3 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 1 - 2 : Att 373

The Skril South

A successful "away" day at the Greene King Community Stadium meant that Stortford moved up to fourth place in the Skril South table. The Blues overcame the shock of conceding a goal in the first minute of the match and excellent strikes by Matt Johnson and Nicky Symons gave them a half-time lead and then an opportunist goal by George Sykes in the dying minutes against the hosts, who finished with ten men, wrapped up the points.

As expected, Rod Stringer had to make changes to his starting line-up with George Allen out with an ankle injury and Ashley Miller unavailable. Ben Adams and Cliff Akurang were drafted into the defence whilst Nicky Symons also made his first full start replacing Anthony Church who wasn't one hundred per cent fit and was one of the substitutes.

The Magpies went ahead after only 45 seconds. Lewis Morgan switched the play out to the right to Aristide Bassele and the cross from the loan player from AFC Bournemouth was missed by everyone in the middle allowing NEIL MARTIN to slide in at the back post and poke the ball low inside the upright from close range (1-0). That was as good as it got for the bottom-of-the-table side that later had Morgan red carded for a reckless challenge on Johnny Herd on the hour and had their Manager Phil Simkin sent to the stand by Referee Ian Cooper for foul and abusive language.

It didn't take long for the Blues to recover and they pressed strongly until eventually equalising shortly after the midway point of the half. In the 6th minute Matt Johnson was unlucky with an 18 yard shot across the goal and not far past the far post after Reece Prestedge had laid a pass out to him. Then two minutes later Cliff Akurang shot over from 12 yards after Prestedge had an attempt at goal blocked following a Johnson corner.

When Kyle Vassell was fouled by Martin in the 14th minute Johnson's free-kick from the right flank over to the far post was met by Callum McNaughton's head but keeper Tim Sandercombe saved well to push the ball out of danger. Stortford continued to press and in the 21st minute Reece Prestedge looked certain to net but headed wide from eight yards after a cross from the right by Ben Adams. Three minutes later a long throw on the left from Johnny Herd towards the near post resulted in a back header by Callum McNaughton that deflected off of central defender Steve Walker and struck the top of the bar.

Stortford's leveller came in the 26th minute after Herd was fouled just left of centre by Ben Watson and MATT JOHNSON excellently struck 35 yard free-kick sailed past Sandercombe (1-1). On the half hour another Johnson free-kick was saved by the Magpies' stopper, diving to his left, and no Blues player could get to the loose ball.

The Blues second goal in the 45th minute also originated from a Johnson free-kick. The midfielder's ball to the edge of the box was headed by Cliff Akurang across to Kyle Vassell and the number nine's volley was pushed away by Sandercombe.

Ben Adams collected on the right and the newcomer 's cross was deflected out to NICKY SYMONS whose 25 yard fierce skimming low drive flashed into the net (1-2).

The Blues continued to dictate the action in the early play after the restart. A promising attack up the left with Vassell and Herd involved led to Matt Johnson having a shot blocked away and then Nicky Symons wasn 't far off target with a long range effort seconds later.

In the 51st minute Vassell headed over the bar from a good position but was ruled offside in any case and after Neil Martin had gone close with a free-kick for Town George Sykes then struck a 20 yard shot that was a little to close to Sandercombe and the keeper caught it relatively comfortably.

Tempers on the pitch were by now getting tetchy and with the atmosphere hotting up the hosts were reduced to playing one short with half-an-hour left as Lewis Morgan was sent off by Referee Cooper following a poor tackle on Johnny Herd in front of the Dorchester dug-out. The Blues full-back managed to continue after some minutes ' attention during which time the hosts ' boss Phil Simkin was dismissed to the stand.

After this incident it was the Magpies who had most of the possession as Stortford seemed to defend too deeply in the remaining time. However, the Blues could have extended their lead in the 74th minute when Reece Prestedge and Matt Johnson broke forward but when the ball was played into space on the right Ben Adams ' acute angled shot flew across the face of the goal and just wide.

The nearest that the hosts came to grabbing an equaliser was in the 79th minute after a corner on the right by Neil Martin. Steve Walker headed goalwards but the ball hit Johnny Herd 's knee on the goal-line and rebounded clear.

Stortford looked likely to add to their tally when they did break but it was down to hard work and persistence by GEORGE SYKES that they netted a third goal. Keeper Sandercombe was attempting to clear a throw-in from one of his defenders when the Blues striker closed him down quickly and the clearance ballooned off the on-loan player from Barnet and rebounded against the bar and Sykes speedily headed the ball into an empty net (1-3).

Dorchester skipper Mark Jermyn hit a swerving volley from the edge of the box that was held by Joe Wright before the end of normal time and then in the five minutes of stoppage time Sykes, twice, and Johnson went close for Stortford.

Apart from the red card and the dismissal of the Magpies ' boss, Referee Cooper had a busy afternoon as he booked four players from each side. For the Blues, Sean Francis, Callum McNaughton, Ben Adams and Cliff Akurang – all in the second half – were yellow carded and the names of Dorchester 's Martin, Watson, Bassele and Walker entered the Match Official 's notebook.

Full time: 1-3

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ben Adams (sub – Harry Baker 74 mins); Johnny Herd; Cliff Akurang; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Nicky Symons (sub - Anthony Church 83 mins); Kyle Vassell (sub – Kyle Asante 69 mins); George Sykes; Reece Prestedge
Unused substitutes: Luke Milbourne and Sam Cowler.

DORCHESTER TOWN: Tim Sandercombe; Dan Green; Neil Martin; Mark Jermyn; Steve Walker; Aaran Pugh (sub – James Beasley 83 mins); Nick Crittenden; Lewis Morgan; Ben Watson; Aristide Bassele; Harrison Bell (sub – Brandon Goodship 46 mins).

Unused substitutes: Danny Way, Jake Ramday and Jack Twyford.