

Saturday 21st Sept 2013

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Eastbourne Borough FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Eastbourne Borough 4 - 1 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 1 - 0 : Att 514

## The Skril South

The Blues' six match unbeaten streak came to an end as well as their run without a defeat on their travels so far this campaign. On the day Stortford came up against a determined side at Priory Lane that were sharper than them and were more incisive going forward. The Blues' defence looked vulnerable whilst none of the midfield players made their mark on the game. Stortford had the opportunities to have taken the lead in the first half and the final score-line was a shade flattering to the hosts but there was little doubt that the better side had won by the final whistle.

Ashley Miller was brought back into the starting line-up as expected so that Ben Adams reverted to the bench where he was joined by new signing Stephan Hamilton-Forbes. There was no place in the squad for the injured George Allen and Anthony Church.

The tempo of the match was high throughout and both sides made bright starts forcing early corners. The first opening came after fifteen minutes after good work by Johnny Herd and George Sykes on the left led to Reece Prestedge cutting the ball back across a vacant six yard box but there was no one in a Stortford shirt to convert. Then two minutes later Nicky Symonds and Matt Johnson were involved in a move up the middle and the latter switched the ball to the right where Sykes running into space saw his shot from just inside the box kept out by the feet of Borough keeper Craig Ross.

Joe Wright did well to tip over a deflected shot from danger man Simon Johnson at full stretch but an offside decision was given in any case. In the 28<sup>th</sup> minute a free-kick into the box from the left from Charlie Gorman left both Sean Francis, playing his 100<sup>th</sup> match for the Blues, and keeper Joe Wright injured on the ground. Both players carried on after attention but there was another lengthy delay soon afterwards when Borough striker Darren Lok went to ground injured.

There was another near miss for Stortford in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute when skipper Reece Prestedge crossed from the left and George Sykes' attempt at the near post was deflected wide.

The Sussex side began to get the edge on proceedings in the period leading up to the break and in the first of five minutes of stoppage time added on they took the lead. Gary Hart centred deep from the left touch-line towards the far post and somehow DARREN LOK, who seemed to be tightly marked by Callum McNaughton, managed to wrap his boot round the ball and send it across and wide of Joe Wright from 12 yards (1-0).

Just before the break an Ashley Miller shot from the edge of the box was held by keeper Ross.

Half-time: 1-0

On the restart Kyle Vassell pulled an attempt at goal from 18 yards wide of the near post and then in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute after the same player had been fouled by Gorman, Reece Prestedge' s 25 yard free-kick resulted a good save from stopper Ross, diving low to his right. Prestedge was close again a little later when a volley from him cleared the bar.

The Blues were very much still in the match but then, in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute, the hosts doubled their lead. Harry Baker, who had been on the field for five minutes after replacing the injured Ashley Miller, gave the ball away by slipping it inside to Borough ' s Simon Johnson who made tracks for goal. Although Stortford had chances to repel the attack SIMON JOHNSON regained possession 20 yards out and floated his shot over Joe Wright and into the back of the net from a central position ( 2-0 ).

Gary Hart for the hosts was wide from the edge of the area whilst the Blues produced one or two promising moves that came to nothing. Then in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute Stortford almost reduced the deficit as a move involving Baker and Prestedge ended with Kyle Vassell drilling a powerful angled low shot from the left that keeper Ross blocked away out of danger.

Cliff Akurang was moved up from the centre of defence to an attacking role but Stortford fell further behind in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute. The defence hesitated waiting for an offside decision that wasn ' t forthcoming when Johnson spread the ball out to the left and substitute ELLIOTT LEVY ran on to net with a deflected shot into the far corner ( 3-0 ).

Following a corner on the right from Matt Johnson, Sean Francis was just off target with a volley but with the Blues pushing forward in search of a consolation goal the defence was exposed and Joe Wright had to make saves in quick succession from firstly Darren Lok and then Simon Johnson when the Borough players were in good positions to score.

There were four minutes of stoppage time at the end of the game and during that time both sides found the net. In the second minute of added time a deep cross from the right by Harry Baker was nodded on by Cliff Akurang out to the far side and KYLE VASSELL drove the ball low past Ross into the opposite bottom corner of the net ( 3-1 ). However, less than a minute later Eastbourne notched their fourth goal of the afternoon as SIMON JOHNSON collected a header from Sean Francis out of defence and smashed it first time from 30 yards past Joe Wright ' s despairing dive ( 4-1 ).

There was still time before the end for Reece Prestedge to have a far post header tipped away by Ross following a Kyle Vassell cross.

During the match Referee Antony Coggins booked the Blues' Nicky Symonds and Reece Prestedge and Borough ' s Charlie Gorman and Frankie Raymond.

BISHOP ' S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller ( sub – Harry Baker 58 mins ); Johnny Herd; Cliff Akurang; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Nicky Symons ( sub – Kyle Asante 74 mins ); Kyle Vassell; George Sykes ( sub – Ben Adams 81 mins ); Reece Prestedge

Unused substitutes: Stephan Hamilton-Forbes and Sam Cowler.

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH: Craig Ross; Lewis Tallack; Charlie Gorman; Matt Aldred; Ian Simpemba; Ollie Rowe ( sub – James Stinson 65 mins ); Gary Hart; Frankie Raymond ( sub – Sam Cole 83 mins ); Darren Lok; Simon Johnson; Chris Shephard ( sub – Elliott Levy 77 mins ).

Unused substitutes: Tony Garrod and Mateusz Szafranski.