

Saturday 5th Oct 2013

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



**Bishop's Stortford FC**



**Gosport Borough FC**



Bishop 's Stortford 4 – 0 Gosport Borough : HT 2 - 0 : Att 504

## The Skril South

Finding the net twice in each half the Blues lifted themselves back into 4<sup>th</sup> spot in The Skril South table. It was a convincing victory at the ProKit UK Stadium in the first ever meeting of the two Clubs but Stortford didn 't have everything their own way as Boro ' had spells when they had the edge in midfield possession particularly before the Blues scored their second goal shortly before the interval.. However, the visitors lacked penetration up front and Blues ' keeper Joe Wright made crucial saves at critical times in the contest.

Following on the FA Cup victory over Hendon the previous weekend, Rod Stringer kept an unchanged starting eleven. Stortford made a bright start and in the third minute a pin-point pass from Anthony Church found Ashley Miller cutting in from the right and Gosport keeper Gareth Barfoot saved low at the near post to keep out an acute angled shot and Cliff Akurang following up was unable to find the target with the ball finally running out for a corner. The Boro 's goal then had a charmed life as Reece Prestedge 's flag kick on the right resulted in Sean Francis seemingly stabbing Matt Johnson 's header against the bar.

The early pressure paid dividends in the 9<sup>th</sup> minute with Stortford 's opening goal. It came from another corner, this time from the left and taken by Matt Johnson, and SEAN FRANCIS with a towering far post header, found the opposite corner of the net (1-0).

A minute later an uncharacteristic slip by Johnny Herd allowed Justin Bennett to advance on goal but the visiting striker attempted a shot from too far out that Joe Wright, diving to his right pushed away from danger. The Hampshire side now settled down to pose a few problems and in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute Bennett and Rory Williams set up Sammy Igoe, in a central position and 15 yards out, but Wright made a fine save diving to his left to keep Igoe 's rising shot out of the net.

There were near misses at both ends with Kyle Vassell almost collected a long through ball from George Allen that eventually ran through to Barfoot whilst Andy Forbes found Justin Bennett running into space from the right but the striker pulled his shot wide of the target as Joe Wright came out of his goal.

Gosport looked slightly stronger in midfield as the match entered the closing stages of the first half and in the 40<sup>th</sup> minute Joe Wright was in action again with a flying save to stop a header from skipper Jamie Brown following a cross from the right flank from Andy Forbes.

The value of the save was underlined when Stortford doubled their lead just a minute later. George Allen rolled a free-kick near the halfway line on the right to MATT JOHNSON and the midfielder advanced at a retreating defence before hammering

a low drive from 25 yards into the far corner of the net (2-0) .

In the minute of added time before the interval Johnny Herd crossed from the left to the angle of the box and Kyle Vassell' s first time rising shot whistled close over the bar.

Half-time: 2-0

Stortford moved quickly into gear on the restart and should have added a third goal four minutes after the break as Matt Johnson 's cross saw Cliff Akurang miss his header and when the ball fell to Kyle Vassell in front of goal the Blues ' number nine couldn 't control it.

Rory Williams was close with low 20 yard shot past the near post but the Blues ' third goal did arrive soon afterwards in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute. Johnny Herd delivered a deep centre into the box from the left touchline and after losing possession for a second the ball rebounded off defender Sam Pearce back to CLIFF AKURANG who swivelled to fire a shot inside the far upright from ten yards. It was Akurang 's first goal this term for Stortford (3-0 )

Akurang then became provider as good work by him gave Kyle Vassell an opportunity but his attempt from an angle missed the far post by inches. Sloppy play on the hour by Stortford allowed Rory Williams to run clear on goal but George Allen made a fine saving tackle to deny the visiting frontman before he could get a shot at goal.

The Blues ' fourth goal came from the penalty spot in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute. Another attack up the left flank ended with Johnny Herd slipping the ball to Kyle Vassell who was pushed to the ground just inside the area by Sam Pearce. Referee Ryan Atkin awarded a penalty and KYLE VASSELL, himself, converted by blasting the ball down the middle of the goal (4-0 ) .

Soon afterwards Callum McNaughton headed on to the roof of the net following a Reece Prestedge corner whilst Jamie Brown and substitute Daniel Smith went close with headers to scoring a consolation goal whilst in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute Johnny Herd set up Cliff Akurang in front of goal but defender Brett Poate got across to deny the striker netting a second goal with a great block. Then in the final minutes Akurang put Sean Francis clear on goal for a great chance but the central defender sliced wide in front of goal..

Referee Atkin booked George Allen and the visitors ' Jack Barton and Sam Pearce during the match.

Full time: 4-0

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller (sub – Harry Baker 77 mins ); Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Kyle Vassell (sub – George Sykes 74 mins ); Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge (sub – Nicky Symons 77 mins ) .

Unused substitutes: Kyle Asante and Ben Adams.

GOSPORT BOROUGH: Gareth Barfoot; Andy Forbes; Brett Poate; Jack Barton (sub – Paul Hinshelwood 73 mins ); Lee Molyneaux (sub – Daniel Smith 60 mins ); Sam Pearce; Sammy Igoe; Jamie Brown; Rory Williams; Justin Bennett (sub – Dan Woodward 58 mins ); Daniel Wooden.

Unused substitutes: Thomas Dunford and Nathan Ashmore.